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Theoretical framework and review of literature

CHAPTER - 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Migration is as old as humanity but theories about migration are fairly new. There is no single coherent theory of international migration, only a fragmented set of theories that have developed largely in isolation from one another, sometimes but not always segmented by disciplinary boundaries (Massey 1993). Social scientist from all disciplines were trying for a general explanation about the phenomenon of international migration but since migration phenomenon can only be understood as a social process across all the disciplines (Fischer and Straubhaar,1996). There are different theories explaining various aspects of international migration. Different theories focus on Economic, Sociological, Political and Geographical aspects of migration. Here emphasis is mainly given to Economic theories of international migration. Due of the lack of systemization, complexity and diversity in migration theories, the current pattern and trends in migration cannot be understood by a single theory. In this section using available literature the most important theories of international migration is discussed

A thorough review of the existing theories and empirical studies related to the topic is an essential requisite to come up with a conceptually strong framework. In this chapter the review of the available literature includes theories of migration its classification to form a theoretical frame work for the study. In the present study actual migrants and migration process are not the major concern. The main focus of attention in this research is towards the left behind wives of the migrants. They are not directly entering into the scene but are obliquely affected by the migration of their husbands. However an over view about the basic theories of migration is very much useful to step into the study. Here is a journey through the various theories of migration and theories about empowerment to provide a perception for the present study.

The chapter proceeds in the following pattern.

2.1 Classification of migration theories and a brief description of migration theories and theories of empowerment to form a theoretical frame work for the study.

2.2 In second section deals with reviews of empirical studies on the impact of migration in general and in particular to left behind women and their socio-economic empowerment are included. The review of the available literature is divided into international, national and state level studies.

2.3 Finally the conclusion of review literature leading to the research gap.

2.1 Classification of migration theories and a brief description to various theories

A brief introduction to the classification of various migration theories helps us to frame a theoretical foundation for the study.

2.1.1 Classification of migration theories

Economic theories of migration can be classified into micro and macro theories. Migration theories are further sub-divided as ‘initiation of migration’ and ‘perpetuation of migration’. Initiation theories explain about the cause of migration. Neoclassical theories of migration, new economics of labour migration, Dual labour market theories, World system theory come under initiation of migration theories. Theories like Network theories, Institutional theory and Cumulative causation theory explains about the continuity and universality of migration. These theories are grouped under perpetuation theories of migration (Hagen-Zanker, 2008).

Table no. 2.1 Micro and macro theories of migration

| Micro theories | Macro theories |
|---|---|
| Neo classical (Sjaastad 1962, Todaro 1970) | Classical macro theories(Lewis 1940) |
| New economics of labour migration (stark and Bloom1984) | Neo classical macro theories (Harris and Todaro 1970) |
| | Dual labour market theory (Piore,1979) |
| | Cumulative causation |
| | World systems theory |
| | Institutional theory |

Source: (Bijak, 2006)

Table no. 2.2 Initiation and perpetuation theories of migration

| Initiation theories | Perpetuation of migration theories |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Neo-classical macro-migration theory | Institutional theory |
| Neo-classical micro-migration theory | Network theory |
| World system theories | Cumulative causation theory |
| Dual labour market theory | Migration as a system |
| Lee's Push-pull theories | World system theory |
| Theory of social systems | |
| New Economics of Labour migration | |

Source: Hagen-Zanker (2008), Massey et al., (1993)

Neoclassical theories of migration focus on disequilibrium phenomenon like surplus capital and surplus wage, wage differentials, migration cost and employment conditions. Neo classical migration theories are further classified into neoclassical macro and neoclassical micro theories of migration. In neoclassical macro theories of Lewis, Fei and Ranis, Harris and Todaro gave importance to geographical difference in the supply and demand for labour and the wage differences in various countries. Whereas neoclassical micro migration theories give importance to individual decision for income maximization. According to Sjaastad, 1962 migration is an investment in human capital. But in New Economics of Labour Migration, NELM; considers migration as a household decision to minimize risks in family income.

Migration theories are classified according to the level they focus on, like micro level, macro level and meso level of migration. (Faist.T, 2000).

Table no. 2.3 Level based classification of migration theories

| Micro level | Meso level | Macro level |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lee's push-pull theories | Institution theory | Neoclassical macro migration theory |
| Neoclassical micro migration theories | Network theory | Migration as a system |
| Theory of social system | Cumulative causation theory | Dual labour market theory |
| Theory of human capital | New economics of labour migration | World system theory |

Source: Faist (2000)

Micro level theories focus on individual migration decisions. Example Lee's push pull theory, Neo classical micro migration theory, Theory of social systems etc. come under micro level theories. Macro-level theories focus migration decisions from an

aggregate view point, on the economic, political and demographic situations in a particular country. It also studies the effect of immigration laws, regulations, global economic changes etc. on migration. Examples are neoclassical macro migration theory, Dual labour market theory, World system theory etc. Meso level is in between micro and macro level, where household or community level can explain about the causes and perpetuation of migration. Institutional theory, Network theory, Cumulative causation theory, New Economics of Labour Migration theories are examples. (Jessica, 2008).

2.1.2 Theories of Migration

An over view of the main theories of migration is briefly described below.

Classical Theories

Adam Smith's view on labour migration according to Zlotnik is a free labour movement across countries from low wage areas to high wage areas which leads to economic development to both origin and destinations (Zlotnik, 2005). According to Adam Smith, Father of Economics, poverty and unemployment in certain regions and high wages in other regions is the basic reason for labour movements. This leads to wage equalization, economic growth and prosperity along with reduction of poverty and unemployment between different regions. Free mobility of labour across different geographical area is considered as migration (Rauhut D, 2010). Thus migration is the redistribution of labour and search of opportunity and Adam Smith's expressed it as the result of imbalance in the labour market. (Lebhart, 2005). According to Kindeleberger Adam Smith did not studied the empirical world around but he was a literary economist who took examples from books (Kindleberger, 1976).

Ravenstein's Laws of Migration

It was Ravenstein who first attempted to conceptualize the migration process. He presented a paper in the journal of statistical society in England. Till then it was believed that migration developed without any certain regularities. But Ravenston in his study found certain general regularities of migration process. He outlined it in a series as laws of migration which explains the patterns of migration (Ravenstein E. G,

1885, 1889). Ravenstein first formulated seven laws then subsequently increased it to eleven. Ravenstein's laws of migration are summarized below.

1. Most migrants move to short distance.
2. Migration happens step by step.
3. Migrants going long distances generally go by preference to one of the great centers of commerce or industry.
4. Each current of migration produces a compensating counter current.
5. City residents are less migratory than a residence of rural area.
6. Women are more migratory than males within the country; of their birth, men are more mobile than women in moments on long distances.
7. Most migrants are young adults; families rarely migrate out of their country of birth.
8. Big cities grow mainly because of migration.
9. The volume of migration increases with development of industry, trade, transport and commerce.
10. The major direction of migration is from agricultural areas to industrial areas.
11. The main reason of migration is economical.

This empirical findings about migration was an initial attempt in migration research thus he is considered as father of modern migration research, after 130 years till now his finding continues as a base for migration models. With empirical proof E.G.Ravenston explained objectively and accurately the basic characteristics of migration process. He used the census data for the nineteenth century England for the empirical analysis (Grigg, 1977). These generalizations came to known as Ravenstein's Laws of migration

Many of these laws are still valid in the context of migration today. Last law confirms the importance of economics in migration phenomenon. The seventh law generalized by Ravenstein is one among them which relates directly to the present study. That is only adult male member migrates, the family as a whole rarely migrate from the place of origin. This is still true nowadays. The research problem in this study is based on this major issue. The study area taken is Malappuram District of Kerala state, which is a place having largest number of adult male migrants in Kerala, therefore highest in the number of left behind families also. As said earlier the study

focuses on left behind women in those families. The third law says that migrants prefer more developed area as destination of migration. In the present study also majority migrant's destination are Gulf countries which are highly developed by the hike in oil price during 1970s. Main reason of migration is economical; this law is also very true in case of migration in the present study because males migrate leaving there family is mainly due to economic reason.

Lee's Push-Pull Theory of Migration

Everett Spurgeon Lee, professor of sociology at the University of Georgia, presented pioneering theory of migration in the annual meeting of Mississippi valley Historical Association Kansas city in 1965 known as push-pull theory or Lee theory. Lee developed a general theory of migration 80 years after Ravenstein's generalization. Lee's push pull factors are the reasons for migration. According to Lee's psychological approach when positive factors at the destination and negative factors at the origin, are sufficiently strong to overcome the obstacle between them thus results in migration. Push factors are those conditions which force people leave their homes whereas pull factors are those conditions which attract people to certain destinations (Lee, 1966, 1969). Lee has conceptualized the factors associated with decision of migration into four categories.

1. Factors associated with the areas of origin which includes all negative push factors.
2. Factors associated with the areas of destination which includes all positive pull factors.
3. Intervening obstacles includes distance, immigration laws, travel expenses etc.
4. Personal factors are age, sex, marital status, job etc.

Almost same idea of Lee that is about the negative aspects in the origin and the positives in the destinations is expressed by Stouffer. According to him migration increases because of the availability of job opportunities in the destination. Thus migration events are directly proportional to the job availability in destinations. (Stouffer, 1940). These factors are still relevant in migration of people even today. This is very much relevant in Kerala context of Gulf migration especially in the study area, Malappuram district. Where large scale migration started from Kerala to Gulf

countries due to an increase in petroleum price and increased constructional activities which required a large scale unskilled and semi-skilled constructional workers during 1970s. This increased job opportunity in Middle East along with poverty and unemployment in the home country made people to migrate from Kerala.

Neo Classical Macro Migration Models

Neoclassical macro model analysis aggregate data and view migration as an equilibrating mechanism. It focuses on differentials in wage and employment conditions between countries. This is the earliest theoretical framework developed to explain labour migration. According to neoclassical macro migration theories migration is a result of geographical difference between labour supply and labour demand. Wage difference between countries is the reason for migration. If there is no wage difference between countries then there is no migration according to this theory. Labour migrates from labour rich poor countries to capital rich labour poor countries. Since labour market is the main influencing factor in international migration. Therefore authorities can regulate migration by labour market policies like wage increase in sending countries.

The neo classical macro theory of migration dates back to Hicks. According to Hicks theory unbalanced distribution of labour and capital causes inequality in wages and living conditions which leads to labour migration (Hicks, 1932).

Neo classical theory explains the impact of migration on economic development. It is one of the oldest and best-known theory of international migration which developed originally to explain labour migration in the process of economic development (Lewis, 1954; Ranis and Fei, 1961; Harris and Todaro, 1970; Todaro, 1976). These are all theories examining initiation of migration.

Arthur Lewis, Nobel laureate in his famous work, "Economic development with unlimited supplies of labour described migration as a 'natural process'. According to his theory the cause for international migration is the geographical imbalance between demand and supply of labour. When supply of labour is elastic but the labour is paid low and their marginal productivity is low, then workers tend to migrate to high wage countries (Massey et al. 1993).

Remittance has become a major incentive for labour sending countries to encourage out migration. Whereas migration contributes labour receiving countries increasing production. Therefore remittance receiving countries reduces its income inequality and wage differences (Prakash, 2009). Equalization of wage would end labour movement and thus labour migration becomes zero.

J. R. Harris and M. Todaro with some empirical observation makes the model specific towards migration. The rural urban migration is based on wage differentials (Harris-Todaro, 1970). They emphasize that the decision to migrate is influenced by the job opportunities available to the migrant at the initial stage and expected income differentials. Fei-Ranis postulated migration as a mechanism which equilibrates wages between agriculture and industrial sector.

Dual labour market theory

The dual labour market theory (Piore, 1979) explains migration as the result of strong labour demand in developed countries. This theory also examines initiation of migration. Piore argued that international migration is caused by a permanent demand for immigrant labour that is inherent to the economic structure of developed nations. Migration is not caused by push factors like low wages, unemployment and poverty in sending countries but by pull factors like excessive requirement of foreign workers in the receiving countries (Massey 1993). Thus according to this theory migration is the result of pull factor that is strong labour demand in developed countries. This labour demand in developed countries is due to the existence of dualistic structure of labour market in industrialized countries. This theory is also known as segmented labour market theory. This theory says developed economies are dualistic with a primary market with secure well remunerated skilled workers and a secondary market of low wage and skilled workers. Employment in the secondary sector fluctuates according to economic cycle and makes jobs unstable and uncertain. Local workers avoid secondary unskilled jobs and the employers are compelled to recruit the unskilled foreign workers for these jobs. Since the migrants do not consider them as a part of destination so they are willing to work in low status jobs (Piore, 1979). The theory says that the demand for migrant workers is generated from structural needs of the economy rather than by wage differentials or wishes of households or families (Wimalaratana, 2017). Major drawback of this model is that it is too narrow with only

one pull factor being analyzed and migrant decision making is not analyzed deeply (Jessica,2008).

The world system theory

In this theory Wallerstein connects the development process of the countries with international migration. According to this theory migration is the result of the unequal development between the central-developed and peripheral agricultural countries. The central countries grow by exploiting and utilizing the peripheral countries. Migration is the natural result of globalization (Wallerstein, 1974). Globalization increases migratory process and development of global cities demand labours from outside. Globalization and capitalism, decrease in transportation cost particularly air transport cost, growth of multinational companies' etc. lead to an increase in migration (Joly, 2000). World system theory emphasizes the structural factors which are neglected in other migration theories (Jessica, 2008).

Neo classical micro migration theories

Human capital approach

This is one of the neoclassical micro migration theories. Here migration is treated as an individual investment decision to increase the productivity of human capital (Sjaastad1962). International migration is a type of investment in human capital. People move to where they can be more productive. Migrants have to undertake certain investments like cost of travelling, effort for studying new language and culture, cost for training new job, cost undergone for finding new job, psychological and emotional cost. According to this theory, individual make a rational cost to benefit calculation of the expected discounted returns of migration over future time periods, migrating only when expected returns are positive. In neoclassical micro migration theory migrants assess the cost and benefits of moving to another country (Todaro1969, 1976, 1989). People migrate where they get greatest reward. This theory not only includes the wage differentials but also individual features of migration like employment, wage, general social condition and technologies that lower the cost of migration. According to this theory migration decisions are taken by individual. Cost of migration includes social and emotional cost.

Theory of social system

This theory migrants hope to achieve a good social status in the destination country but often this is not achieved (Hoffmann-Novotny, 1981). A migrant coming from a socially backward country is unlikely to achieve a high social status at destination. Under casting of migrants is a usual thing so that migrants take on the lowest position in the society which is below the lower status natives in the destination countries. According to this theory along with economic push factors, social push factors play an important role in migration. This theory also considers about what happens to the migrants after migration at their destination. The theory gives importance to structural factors which most micro theories neglect.

Perpetuation theories of migration

Network theory

According to the proponents of Network theory migrant networks are set of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination through kinship, friendship etc. This increases migration by lowering cost and risk which in turn increases the net returns from migration. Network theory tries to explain why international migration is an ongoing phenomenon. (Hugo 1981, Taylor 1986, Massey 1990, Gurak and Caces 1992) There are instances of migration through illegal means by friends and relatives which result in hardships and the migrants become victims of violence and exploitation

Institutional Theory

Institutional theory similar to Network theory explains about the continuation of international migration. Once international migration has begun a number of private institutional and voluntary organization were set up to take advantage on the imbalance between employers of labour receiving countries and potential migrants of labour sending countries. There is a mismatch between the number of seeking employment opportunities in industrialized countries and the immigrant visas available in these countries (Massey et al 1993).

Many profit seeking and not for profit organizations have been established in order to address the issues of migrants and employers. Institutional theory is important in today's context in order to create a favorable and strong policy framework for both labour- sending and receiving countries.

Cumulative Causation Theory

This theory was developed by Gunnar Myrdal in 1956. Further developed by a Douglas Massey (Massey,1990). This theory explains why migration flow begins and continues to grow. (Fussell and Massey 2004). Cumulative causation explains how the number of outgoing migrants increases over time. The social capital given by the first migrant to the family, friends and relatives in the origin, encourages them to find jobs easily and face minimum risk in designation countries (Jennissen 2004). This stimulates the influences people to migrate more and more.

6 social and economic factors influence migration cumulatively. (Massey, 1993)

- 1) People migrate not only to improve their absolute income but also their relative income.
- 2) Migrants from rural area buy land in country of origin, as a symbol of prestige and an income for retirement life.
- 3) By the application of modern production technology in the farms of migrants which decreases the demand for labour force and increases migration.
- 4) As migration increases the values and culture changes which again increases migration growth.
- 5) Migration initially attracted educated individuals. Thus a shortage of human resource occurs in the country of origin.
- 6) Social label of immigration resultant aversion of local labour force which leads to an increase in emigration.

Migration system theory

According to this theory migration changes the economic, social, cultural and institutional conditions in origin as well as in the destination. The system theory of migration focus on both micro and macro factors in migration process. Micro level factors are kinship and friendship systems whereas macro level factors focuses on

economic system, political system, and national policies on immigration, cultural and social systems. Migration system theory emphasizes the linkage between the migration and development (De Haas, 2010). This theory is relevant for developing a theoretical framework that considers migration as a means for economic and social development. The remittance sent back to the family members may alter the social and economic condition of labour sending countries. Therefore we can conclude that migration has the ability to influence socio economic development of the country of origin (Wimalaratana 2017). An international migration system generally includes core receiving region, which may be a country or group of countries and a specific sending countries.

New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM)

A major shift in traditional theories came in 1990s in the form of new economics of labour migration (Massey, 1993). It challenged many of the assumptions and conclusions of neo classical theory (Stark and Bloom, 1985). NELM shifted the focus of migration decision from individual to household or family. According to NELM the decision to migrate is not an individual decision but is collective decision of household or families. Migration not only aims to maximize income but also to minimize risk and to loosen constraints associated with market failure in addition to the failures in the labour market (Stark and Levhari 1982, Stark 1984, Katz and Stark 1986, Taylor 1986, Taylor 1999, Lauby and Stark 1988, Stark 1991)

Unlike individuals, households are in the position to control risk for their wellbeing by enlarging the allocation of household resources such as family labour. While some family members can be assigned economic activities in the local economy, others may be sending to work in foreign labour market. When the local economic conditions deteriorate and economic activities fail to bring sufficient income, the household rely on migrant's remittance for support. In developed countries risk to household income are minimized by private insurance market or government programs. But in developing countries, this institutional mechanisms for managing risks are imperfect, or absent or inaccessible to poor families. Thus they migrate to abroad in order to avert risk (Massey, 1993).

As the focus is shifted from individual to Household or Family in NELM, this is important in the study because this study is about the impact of male out migration on women and family welfare, which does not fit well in the individualistic neo classical models (Saha.S et al.2018).

Decision of migration is not taken by individual workers themselves but wider social entities, example households. This approach is called NELM (Stark and Bloom, 1985). One way of reducing risk of insufficient household income is labour migration of a family member. Family members abroad may send remittances. According to NELM these remittance have a positive impact on the macro economic development economy in sending countries (Taylor1999). This impact of remittance upon sending countries is called develop mentalist perspective. Negative impact of remittance known as migrant syndrome is that as migration and remittance increases in the economy of sending country will be affected by inflation or Dutch disease. The households in the sending society is one main aspect of study in the NELM(Massey et al. 1993).Therefore sending country is one of the important focus of study in international migration studies. Family as a whole migrates if their net gain is positive. (Sandell, 1977). Sometimes one member in the family migrates because the decisions are often made by the household members together for the wellbeing of the family as a whole (Mincer, 1978). NELM is the only migration models that link the migration decision to the impacts of migration with remittance (Taylor and Fletcher 2001). Thus looking into the individual migration utilities the households decides about the migration matters.

According to NELM household maximizes joint income, status and minimizes risks. These three aspects contribute to the migration decision of the household. In real life migration decisions are influenced by both absolute and relative income. The relative deprivation theory states that the relative income position of the household is an important determinant of international migration (Stark, 1988). Relative income can be seen as a social status of local community, village, town etc.

Neoclassical approach is optimistic about the impacts of migration on the labour sending countries due to high expectation of reduced poverty, unemployment and over production. According to the neoclassical theory labour market rules and

controls regulate international migration of sending and receiving countries. Neoclassical assumptions and conclusions are challenged by NELM.

Neo classical theory theories over emphasizes the role of individual in the process of migration. But in actual life the decision to migrate is based on the cost and benefits to the family. Economic benefit is not the only reason to migrate. For example if an individual having economic opportunity abroad may leave it if his or her departure would cause emotional hardship in the sending community. Thus we can conclude that family is one of the crucial agent behind an individual's decision and motivation to migrate. This is important in the study because this study is an attempt to find the impact of international male migration on the empowerment of women left behind. While those discussed earlier individualistic neoclassical models deals with wage differences as the major cause behind migration.

Importance of family in migration process can be summarized below:

- 1) Family helps to collect resource for transportation. Because most migrants are young and does not have enough saving to finance a move. This is one of the economic role of the family.
- 2) Socialization of the family helps in migration. Kinship, customs, values and social obligations etc. comes under family. Therefore family is a primary socializing unit
- 3) Family helps the migrants to cope with a new environment in the receiving country. For example many people move abroad where they have family members rather than where economic opportunities are more fruitful. Because they can relay upon their family members on food, shelter, information etc.(Sarah Harbison1981)

In conclusion NELM should not be seen in isolation with the other migration theories. It is one of the most realistic and useful theory in the present context.

2.1.3 Empowerment theory

A theoretical analysis on empowerment is also essential in the study. Because impacts of international male migration on left behind women and their empowerment is examined in this study. The study focus on the life experiences and well-being status of women living at the origin during their husband's absence. Since the study is

an attempt towards the impact of male out-migration on the well-being of left-behind women with a special reference to their empowerment.

Empowerment is the process of bringing people into the decision making process - who were outside in it, in political and economic spheres. Empowerment is a process of transition from a state of powerlessness to a state of relative control over one's life, destiny and environment. Empowerment is a transition from a passive situation to a more active situation of control. The concept of empowerment has a unique implication when applied to women. This is because women are not just another disadvantaged group, but also a category that cut across every social group. Women empowerment is the outcome various movements and theories that were developed in the past. Empowerment is reflected in a person's capability set. The capability of a person depends on a variety of factors, including personal characteristics and social arrangements. (Sen. A, 1993).

Women empowerment is the process through which women acquire the ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them., which establishes the importance of the "process "through which women progress towards an improved condition.(Kabeer, 1999). Empowerment is the ability to make choices. One is disempowered if he or she is denied to make choice. The process of empowerment begins at a women's individual consciousness and become externalized through physical mobility, awareness, increased autonomy in decision making and therefore a strong role in the household, greater self-esteem and a meaningful participation in society.

The theoretical model developed by Naila Kabeer to explain empowerment through breaking the process down into key components. Kabeer's (Kabeer 2001) understanding of choice comprises three inter-related components.

- 1) Resources: The conditions under which choices are made. They are the enabling factors or catalysts for which empowerment is to occur.
- 2) Agency: This is the heart of process through which choices are made.
- 3) Achievements: Outcomes of choices. That is the expression of empowerment.

The concept of 'resource,' 'agency', and 'achievement' are important in understanding the empowerment of women left behind. Resources can be in the form

of environment which is available to the left behind women. Remittances received, education, employment, parental background etc. are some among them. They act as catalyst for change and left behind women in the absence of their husbands act as agents of change. Enhanced autonomy in decision making, mobility and financial independence, participation in public etc. are supposed to be as some outcomes or achievements of the process of empowerment.

Resources -- social, economic, and political are very important in ensuring women's empowerment, but they are not always sufficient. At the same time it is important to note that without women's individual or collective ability to recognize and utilize resources in their own interest, resource cannot bring about empowerment. The role of agency is to give an access to resources. That is agencies cannot claim to empower women rather they can provide appropriate support which is important to foster process of empowerment. Agencies act as facilitator in the process of empowerment. Empowerment cannot be reduced to a single aspect of process. Outcomes depend upon how women exercise their choice. Choices vary across class, time, and space.

The concepts of 'status' and 'empowerment' are used to study the impact of male migration on women left-behind women. Where 'status' refers to one's stand in society 'empowerment' denotes the ability of women to make strategic life choices which they were previously denied of. As said earlier, empowerment is understood in terms of 'resources' (the enablers for the process of making such choice), 'agency' (the ability to make strategic choices) and 'achievements' (the expression of empowerment) and expressed in terms of decision-making power, personal freedom, mobility, access to and control over resources, and freedom from violence etc. (Kabeer.N, 1999).

Many earlier studies took the situation of absence of husbands as a resource or environment for left behind women and agency as the opportunity to make decisions, mobility, financial management etc. of the women and finally achievement as their empowerment.

Empowerment starts from power, which is the ability to make choice. Denied choice is disempowerment. Thus empowerment is the situation where the denied choice is acquired. People who exercise a great deal of choice in their life are powerful but may not be empowered because they were not denied of something in their past. (Kabeer. N, 2005).

Thus the term empowerment is only meaningful to those who were once in the situation of disempowerment in the past. This is very much related to the left behind women in the study. The wives in migrant households in the study were denied of making choices while their husbands were with them. In the study by taking samples of women from non-migrant households who lives together with their husbands are also taken in order to compare their empowerment status with left behind women. Women in migrant households when their husbands go abroad leaving their family in the origin, the wife will have to take all choices and decisions alone.

Various studies (Hjorth Stephanie, 2011, Karolina Kulczycka, 2015) used this model to find out whether left behind women are empowered or not when compared to women living with their husbands.

Resource theory

Empowerment of women depends upon many factors one of the most important factor is the decision making power of the women. In resource theory (Blood and Wolfe, 1960) the decision- making power of spouses depends on the resources each spouse brings to their households. This power of resource is reflected in the decision making of the spouses. Those who brings more resources to the house have more decision making power than the other. Resources can be classified into socio-economic material resources and personal skills or characteristics. (Lee and Petersen, 1983).

In the study socio-economic resources like education, employment, and income are considered important factors leading to women empowerment. Based on the above theoretical frame works the present study attempt to analyze the impacts of international male migration on the empowerment of women who are left behind.

2.2 Review of empirical studies

Migration existed throughout human life, it was there in past, exist in the present and will continue in the future. The process of migration phenomenon deals with almost all social, economic, political and geographical aspects. This section deals with the review of earlier studies related to the topic. As the major focus of the present study is the impact of migration on the women left behind, here is an attempt made to review some important studies available in the literature about migration and women left behind, which has direct or indirect relevance to the present study.

Here the reviews are arranged in 3 parts on the basis of migration studies made at 1) International level 2) National level and 3) State level.

2.2.1 International studies

Khafagy, (1984) had a study about the women in El- Qabbabat , a village in Egypt where large scale male migration had occurred since 1973 to Saudi Arabia. The impact of migration can be seen in the construction and renovation of their houses, purchase of consumer durables like refrigerators, television etc. and purchase of capital goods like tractors truck etc. The study found that as a result of male migration the traditional role of women changed a lot. By the management of financial resources including remittances, disciplining children, responsibility of livestock and dealing with other outside household task made women more authoritarian. Age, ownership of assets, and type of family etc. are major factors affecting the authority of women. The study found a trend of nuclearisation of family as an impact of male migration. The study also found a positive husband-wife relationship and relationship with in-laws and left behind women. Though the work load of women had increased but majority women in the study area are satisfied with their new self-image. They enjoyed making decisions about household affairs, children's matters and matters affecting their own lives. This gained self-confidence and well recognition for those women from people outside and inside their house.

A study by Brink (1991) about the impact of labour migration on the status of women was conducted in Sadeeq an Egyptian village near Cairo. After 1973 migration to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya started in a large scale in Sadeeq. The absence of males due to migration made difficult for women to handle education and disciplining of children. Migration gives a momentum for the splitting up of extended families to nuclear. And women in nuclear family gained some ability in money management in the absence of their husbands. But the rural women were not interested in changing their traditional role. Thus study found that the rural Egyptian women in the study area do not gained any status improvement due to their husband migration.

Hourani (1991) studied about the migrant workers in Gulf countries. Most of the emigrants are unskilled and semiskilled. The life and working conditom of emigrants

in Gulf was very much pathetic. The migrants are very much uncertain and insecure in their jobs. The study found that the vulnerability of those migrant workers was increased after 1970s.

Hoodfar (1993) had explored about the impact of male migration on urban families in Egypt. The study is an enquiry whether feminization or reaffirmation of traditional gender roles is occurring due to migration. The samples for the study were collected from urban region of Cairo. Migrant, non-migrant and return migrant households were considered for the study and the majority males are unskilled or semi-skilled and migrated to oil producing Arab countries. The findings of the study is interesting that less educated wives gained more decision making power and their new experience and managerial skills outside the family gave them more self-confidence and positive outlook. Whereas more educated and earning women experienced a sharp decline in family decision making matters. This is because migration had changed the balance of cash contribution in favour of their husband. Women had become the head of the families in the absence of their husband but still the traditional concept that the bread winner or one who brings more money to the family has more power in the family. Thus women remain as dependent mother and home maker but the acquired knowledge of women remains permanent.

Ryff and Keyes (1995) present the key features of human wellness in their endeavor to reexamine the outline of the fundamental structure of psychological well-being. The six factors that advance the psychological wellbeing, happiness and contentment of a person is listed in the six-factor model of psychological well-being. This model is not based on just about feeling good but more about living life righteously. Self-acceptance, positive relations, environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy and purpose in life are the six factors of the model of psychological well-being. The researchers through their investigation arrived at the conclusion that the domain of psychological wellness is a multidimensional one. They recommend that relentless analysis and interweaving scrutiny and observations of various supporting sources of evidences are required to comprehend the exact model of psychological well-being, which is far more than feeling happy and contented with life.

Hadi (2001) examines the changes in the left behind women and their families due to the international migration of the male members in the family. The study was

conducted by taking data from 70 villages in Bangladesh. Both women in migrant household and non - migrant households were considered in the study. He made a decision making capacity indicator to measure the decision making role of women. Its score ranged from low decision making to high decision making. The study found a positive association between male migration and women's decision making power. Remittance had improved financial situation and there by the standard of living and enhanced the status of women. Education of girl child in migrant families were given importance, and noticed that in migrant families was more likely to send their girls to schools. Another interesting thing he found that international migration reduced the practice of dowry in marriages. The study ends with the fact that male migration can create a context for change in a traditional community and thus improved the position of women in rural Bangladesh.

This is a study by Bever (2002) who explored about the changes in the gender roles occurred due to male out migration. The study was conducted in an agricultural community in Sudzal in Mexico A stratified sampling method was used and semi structured interview was conducted to collect data. For the sake of comparison 75 percent of non-migrant household along with 25 percent of migrant households were considered in the study. The result of the study found that regardless of the migration status of the households, men remain as the household head.

Khalaf (2009) examines the impact of male migration on the decision making and wellbeing of left behind wives in Labanese family. The study was conducted using data from national survey taking 107 households. Husband's income, husband's level of education, wife's level of education and the length of husband's absence these four variables were examined to analyze the impact of husband's migration on wife's decision making and wellbeing. The study found out that the left behind women now do the entire task which was once done by her husband. Thus male migration has changed the traditional role of women to much modern one. Since the study was conducted with limited data, the study is an exploratory one much more detailed study is required to conform the results.

Farooq and Zahoor (2009) studied about the left behind wives and children of migrants in rural Pakistan. The objective of the study focused about the problems like mental stress and anxieties faced by the women in managing responsibilities like

children's education, health, and participating social functions in the absence of their men. 300 respondents were taken from 8 villages of Faisalabad district by a simple random sampling technique. Chi square test and Probit test were used to analysis the data. The results of the study found against the expectation in the case of male children that the women could not supervise them properly. The study found a strong association between international male migration and dropout of male children from schools and colleges. This was statistically proved using Chi square test and also the Probit analysis inferences also reflected the same. The study also identified problems loneliness, psychological stress and strain with women in the absence of their spouses.

Archambault (2010) studied about the left behind women in Ugweno in Tanzania. 32 males and 31 females were interviewed using semi structural interview with the help of local research assistant and by the researcher himself. They also done case study in 11 samples. The researcher found a change in attitude among the males and females towards migration pattern that is unlike past generations in Ugweno, now both husband and wife prefer to move together. The study also found that the social and economic situations are changing in favorable for young generation which makes them think to stay back while their husband migrates. More autonomy and wellbeing were assured in Ugweno for women who left behind.

Haas and Van Rooij (2010) examine the impact of male migration on the left behind women in rural southern Morocco. Both qualitative and quantitative data of migrant households and non- migrant households was considered in the study. They are of the opinion that migration has an indirect rather direct effect on women autonomy. The study found women in nuclear family have more responsibility and more control over remittance and have more say in matters like household purchases, investments, children's education etc. Another finding of the study was that the decision making autonomy of the left behind wife is only temporary, once their men return back then he will take back the authority. Though there are many difficulties and hardships to the women left behind but the study support the idea that male migration lead to more autonomy to the spouses left behind.

Mahmood (2010) study conducted in Pakistan examined the impact of international migration on the families left behind. Rather than expectation of higher income some other non-economic reasons for migration are war, ethnic discrimination and political

insecurity. The objectives of the study is to investigate the socio-economic conditions of the left behind and to explore the status or empowerment of left behind women. To investigate about the responsibilities of bringing up children and their problem solving with in the family without men. The study was conducted in Toba Tek Singh district of Pakistan. 120 women whose husband was abroad were taken as samples and these data were analyzed using statistical Package for Social sciences, SPSS. The result of the study show majority of women was empowered in the absence of their husbands. Some wives and children were very much affected by loneliness rather than other social problems.

Yabiku, et al. (2010) analysed the impact of husbands labour migration on wives autonomy and found a positive association between migration of husbands and status and autonomy of women. The study was conducted in southern part of rural Mozambique. Women autonomy was taken as the dependent variable. Women autonomy was measured by method known as Yabiku et al technique. The scale of autonomy was prepared by asking 7 questions and scale ranges from 0 to 14, answers for the questions are 'not allowed' which denote low autonomy with 0 score, answer with 'have to ask permission' denote medium autonomy with 1 score and if the answer is 'no need of permission' denote high autonomy with 2 scores. The study found that the women who remain in the origin have greater autonomy, independence and decision making. But women who live in extended families have very limited autonomy compared to those who live in nuclear families. The study noticed a lower fertility rate among the left behind women. Male migration seems to increase employment and income generating activities in women left behind. Thus the study came to the conclusion that international male migration increased women autonomy and this autonomy continued even after the return of their husbands.

Maharjan, et al. (2011) studied about the impact male migration of status of women and their workload in rural Nepal. 509 primary data were collected from both migrant households and non- migrant households from two district of Nepal. Pre tested structured questionnaire was used for 273 migrant households and 236 non migrant households. Quantitative techniques like comparison of means and frequencies, *t* test, Chi-square tests etc. together with qualitative techniques like case study, cobweb diagrams and time budgeting were used in the study. The result of the found that

women's involvement in all indoor and out-door activities increased due to mail migration. Remittance received is one of the main factors which made women more empowered. The study found that higher remittance reduced the physical work load and increased the decision making power of the left behind women on the other hand lower remittance receiving households have more physical burden and lesser decision making power in strategic matters. In the study women in migrant households were compared to women in non-migrant households and found that women in migrant households have more decision making power. So the study concluded as left behind women have more empowered than other women who stay with their husband's.

Gunnarsson (2011) in his work focuses women in three village of Gambia where their males were migrated to urban areas for work. The study examines in impact of migration on women's freedom, decision making power, about resources and agriculture. The results of the study found that the women in the study area neither become independent nor become powerful due to the male migration. The women had to suffer tensions and loneliness after their husband's migration. The remittances are used for better schooling of their children. But the wife had to depend on other family members to whom the husbands send their remittances.

Hjorth (2011) studied about the impact of male migration and remittance on female empowerment in urban Lebanon. Does male migration influences the women's capabilities to make strategic life choices. . The data for the study was collected from qualitative interview and quantitative on line survey among Labanese women. Women with migrant husbands and non-migrant husbands were considered for effective comparison. The aim of the research is to find whether male migration can be considered as a potential source of gender equality and development in Lebanon. This was studied using the analytical frame work of Naila Kabir's (1999) three dimensional - resource, agency and achievement view on empowerment. According to this model empowerment is gained when resource is transmitted into agency which is transformed to achievement then empowerment is achieved. The study considered absence males due to migration and remittances received as precondition or resource for women left behind which provides an environment to exercise their choices in life. This process or agency finally leads to certain outcomes or achievement. In this study female labour market participation is considered as an achievement of empowerment.

Due to the poor agency function to process the outcome the findings of the study reveals that there is no indication of empowerment as a result of male migration.

Gartaula, et al.(2012) in their paper about the socio-cultural dispositions and wellbeing studied about the subjective and objective wellbeing gained by left behind women due to migration of their husbands. The study was conducted in eastern Nepal using 277 samples of women in migrant households during 2008-2009. Both qualitative and quantitative method where used for the study. The qualitative data was collected from the personalized individual experiences of the left behind women through in- depth interviews and continuous observations. The quantitative data collected regarding the access to food, education. Clothing, healthcare and childcare were used to analysis the objective well- being of the left behind women. The whole study revolved around four case of left behind women for easy comparison. One from rich background, another from poor background. The migration of husband and remittances has strong influence in poor household in improving economic status. But in case of rich household husband migration and remittance have only a weak influence. In the third case in the left behind women are the de-facto head in the family in absence of their husbands. The women in this category enjoy more power and autonomy when compared to the fourth category of women who live with their in laws. . The survey reveals that the remittance of the male migrants has definitely improved the material factors like living conditions and healthcare of the left behind women. Contrastingly, the subjective factors have taken a back seat due to the absence of their life partners. The economic status increases and the left behind women experience a sense of empowerment but at the same time there is a deprivation in the emotional dimensions of these women. Thus the study concluded that objective welfare for the women left behind is gained by remittances but the subjective wellbeing and relational dimensions are more complex.

Jacka (2012) had a study about the impact of rural male out migration on the wellbeing of the left behind women in rural China. The sample for the study was collected from Snow Valley a poor rural country in Ningxia. About 2000 women were considered in the survey, but 1577 women of age group 20 to 60 were taken for the study in that 441 were left behind women. The survey was conducted during 2010-2011. The survey data proved that workload, worries, life satisfaction, health etc.

were similar to those women in migrant and non-migrant households. Also the study found that the higher income attained by migration have not transmitted to the wellbeing of the left behind.

Rashid S.R, (2013) evaluates the occurrences that come across the life of Bangladeshi women after the migration of the men in their life. She examines about the women's experience in different living arrangements like nuclear family, joint family and natal families in the absence of their males due to migration. The study was conducted in two migration intensive village in rural Bangladesh. Participatory observation, informal interviews, and case studies were conducted. The sample of the survey and study constitutes the women from two migration intensive villages in Bangladesh. The researcher argues that to a certain extent it is the renouncement of mobility and embracing of domesticity by the left behind women that assures social stability and a warm home to which the men can return upon retirement. The study found out that women in nuclear family enjoy more freedom, decision making power and well-being when compared to those who live in extended and natal families. Women who live with their in laws have more security and well-being when compared to women living in their natal houses. It was also found that one of the positive outcomes of the male migration was an expansion and deepening of the activities other than household chores of the left behind women Rasheed S.R deviates from the usual topic of empowerment of women that occurs because of the male migration and questions the hegemonic ideas of gender roles in the backdrop of male migration and left behind women. The spatial dissociation of women from their men in some cases destabilizes and in certain other cases reinforces the gender roles in terms of empowerment. Essentially it was seen that the left behind women by and large try to control and extract the various types of influential and powerful undertakings that are substantial for their life.

Wang (2013) had a study about the left behind women in Mexico whose husbands are migrated to United States. In Mexico most families are having migrant members. It is a country with highest number of emigrants in the world. The study attempts to find the labour force participation of women after the migration of their males. The employment rate of married women is already low in Mexico, the study enquire whether male migration prevents or encourages women to join labour force. The data

used for the study is the first two waves of the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) completed in 2002 and 2006 respectively. The MxFLS data contains individuals information about education, age, earnings, marital status etc. which is most suitable data sheet for the analysis of the labour force participation of left behind women. Statistical tool like Ordinary Least square is used in the study. The study found that left behind women increases their participation and labour time in in unpaid work but reduce participation and labour time in paid work after the migration of males. Most of the left behind women become engaged in self-employment because they prefer flexibility of working time because of the absence of their males. Some women gain more independence, self-esteem and entrepreneurship by creating their own small business world. Due to male migration family income increases and women uses this income to finance their business. Thus migration stimulates the emergence of idea and creation of wealth and improvement of human and physical capital in origin countries

Sarker and Md. Shahidul (2014) studied about the impact of international male migration on left behind women in rural Bangladesh. The effect of migration on women's decision making power and autonomy was studied using data collected from Takerbazar in Sylhet district of Bangladesh. Two stage cluster sampling method was used to select 220 migrant families and stratified random sampling method was used to select 220 non migrant families. A comparative analysis of women in both families was done by a face to face interview using semi- structure questionnaire. After describing the socio – economic status of the both types of families then the women decision making role and autonomy was measured. The decision making role was measured using Hadi's decision making capacity indicator it score ranged from low to high decision making. The women autonomy was measured by Yabiku et al technique its score ranged from low to high autonomy. Binary logistic regression was applied to measure women's position. The study proved that women in nuclear families have more decision making power compared to women in joint families. Age and land ownership are another variables which positively effects decision making and autonomy. But marital duration has no role on decision making and autonomy of women. The study concluded that men migration is positively related to decision making power and autonomy of women.

Iqbal,S et al. (2014) studied about the impacts of male migration on the females left behind. The study was conducted in a village Pindi Baha ud Din in Pakistan. The study focused on the role of remittance in changing the status and autonomy of women. The objective of the study was to find out how remittance influences the left behind women's personal development. Qualitative technique was used to interpret the data and the findings of the study were based on empirical results. The respondents in the study agreed the fact that absence of their men made them more independent and autonomous. The absence of the husbands in the family gave the women a better opportunity in economic decision making, freedom of mobility, better health care etc. The absence of males in family give heavy workload and responsibilities to the females left behind. Sometimes they have to play dual role as males and females simultaneously. The study concludes that the improvement in decision making autonomy gained by females is the fruit of the difficulty and work load they had faced. Thus the study confirms a positive effect of migration and remittance on the females left behind

Kausar,S et al.(2014) identifies the financial wellbeing gained by migration, but psychological disturbances, emotional stress, loneliness and sadness suffered by the left behind children and women is very heavy. Their study explains about economic, social and psychological impacts of migration on left behind women and children. The study was conducted in Thesil Dascaa district in Pakistan. Qualitative research methodology with convenience snow ball sampling was used in the study. The study found that education and health was improved by remittance but the left behind children miss their father badly. In the case of women also they became economically safe but are emotionally stressed. Thus there are positives and negatives in male migration. The study revealed that left behind women do not have any significant role in decision making. All important decisions are taken by the migrant husbands themselves from their destination place using phone and net. The author concluded that both left behind women and women living with husbands both have limited freedom in decision making. The left behind women even have to depend on their extended family for their movement. The up bring of the children without husband are difficult for those women. But finally the author came to the conclusion that when compared to all the above difficulties economic benefits over weights all the other. So that left behind women become ready to face all difficulties.

Kulczycka (2015) analyzed about the impact of male migration on the women left behind in Nepal, one of the poorest country struggling for economic and social development. The objective of the study is to find whether women being empowered after being left behind by their husbands. Can they utilize the situation and the resources like remittance, land, and human resources owned by them for the improvement of their position in households and society? The study seeks whether labour migration can be understood as a potential source of empowerment. The collected secondary data was analyzed using the theoretical frame work of Naila Kabir's (1999) three dimensional empowerment: resource, agency and achievement. Remittance is considered as a resource because it can make strong impact on women's situation. Others such as land ownership, human resource like education, health, employment, self-esteem, self-confidence etc. can influence the status of women. Agency is the process of empowerment; it is the ability to act up on one's goal. Left behind women's agency is analyzed using 3 acts of empowerment – women's decision making, mobility, and increased responsibility. Achievement of the outcome of empowerment is taken as female labour market participation. The result of the analysis found that participation of women in labour market reduced after male migration. So the study concluded that women did not experience any empowerment Thus it is conclude that for Nepalese women it is difficult to handle new situations and they like to continue the old pattern of doing things by sharing responsibilities with husbands.

Demurger (2015) challenged the traditional belief that migration always brings economic and social wellbeing to the family members left behind. According to the author the effect of migration on the family left behind can be positive or negative depending upon the situations of the individuals. Remittance increases the consumption and investments, improvement in health, sanitation and nutrition, reduction in child labour, and improvement in the barging power of women left behind. These are some positives pointed by the author while negatives noticed are increased responsibilities and workload for those who left behind, increase the children's probability of school drop outs, increased psychological problems, and decrease in labour force participation. Author agrees that remittance is very important in fighting with poverty in the family. But migration of the family members from the most vulnerable population had to suffer a lot. So that the author suggests the policy

makers to consider those families and give sufficient support system to help them in improving their human capital development especially in health and education.

Ullah (2017) conducted a study on the empowerment of left behind women from six different countries- Yemen, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Egypt and Indonesia. Snow ball technique was used for data collection. The study used three dimensional methods of resource, agency and achievement to analyses empowerment. The study shows change in gender role in almost all countries under investigation. Author finds that left behind women used their potential to manage their household activities and enjoyed freedom in decision making, mobility and social and political participation. This make those women empowered. But finally when those husbands came back to home permanently then the whole seen become different. The return husbands never share their household responsibilities with their wives. Thus by the arrival of the husbands the women's enjoyment of freedom in decision making, mobility and social participation will came to an end.

Matz J.A and Mbaye L.M (2017) investigated about the impact of male migration on the autonomy of the left behind women. The data for the study was collected by a longitudinal household survey from rural Ethiopia during 2004 and 2009. The study finds that male migration resulted in the improvement of self confidence among left behind women. Thus migration of males offers an opportunity for their left behind wives to achieve autonomy in traditional societies.

Luna S and Rahman (2018) elucidates the changing aspects of the empowerment process of migrant wives by setting side by side the encounters and circumstances of migrant and non- migrant wives. This study conducted in Bangladesh identifies four major areas that is financial management, mobility, residential independence and decision making in household matters were left behind women have to be participated actively in the absence of their males. The enterprises undertaken by a migrant wife remodels her into a more resilient and autonomous one. In the absence of the husband the left behind wife gathers the ability and opportunity to step out of the house physically and access resources which were alien to her before. This newfound physical mobility enhances their social skills and thus plays a significant role in their metamorphosis into a dynamic presence.

Ghimre, D et al. (2019) researched on whether the migration of the husband is a trouble or does it provide more independence to the left behind women. Studying the left behind women in Nepal the researchers explored how the remittance status and out migration transformed work burden and independence of the left behind women. The study surmised that even though there may be certain disadvantages the out migration of men resulted in reshaping the women as more self-sufficient. It was also deduced that the overall time spent outdoors and leisure activities also was boosted as a result of the out migration of the men.

Shwe et al. (2019) studied about the impact of husband's migration on wife and her decision making autonomy. The study hypothesizes the positive impact of women in the absence of men. For the study 205 migrant wives and 196 non migrant wives were taken from rural Mangway region. A multi stage random sampling method was used to collect the data. For the analysis process economic decisions, household decision and physical mobility decision together formed a decision making autonomy and it was taken as dependent variable. Structure of family, household size, number of children, economic status etc. were taken as independent variable. The findings of the regression analysis accepted the hypothesis and found variables like economic status and number of children positive relation with the decision making autonomy of wives while household size have negative effect.

Fakir and Abedin (2020) had a study in rural Bangladesh about the empowerment of women due to male out migration. The study found that male out migration provided a chance for women to do those tasks which were once done by the males. The left behind women thus gathers an idea about the economic and social situation of the society around her and also of her own family. This knowledge and experience empower the women who otherwise would have not ventured into this realm. This gave women more freedom in household domestic activities and also got exposure in outside activities in a male centered patriarchal society. The active participation of women in these activities gained power to strive against violence which led to their personality development and empowerment. But various econometric tests were used for the analysis and found that decision making power of women did not significantly increase with their ownership of assets. But still their status in household improved due to their participation in household budgeting and physical mobility. Thus the

absence of men made realize about their capabilities and potential which finally led to their empowerment.

2.2.2 National studies

Jetlay (1987) in his study described the dark picture about the females who are left behind due to the male migration. The study was conducted in Utter Pradesh one of the densely populated state in India. Snow ball-sampling technique was used to collect data. 97 families where choosen from the 3 backward highly populated villages in eastern Utter Pradesh. Along with secondary data, personal interview, Observation, Group discussion and case study where used to collect data. The people are very poor they migrate to cities in search of jobs. The study found that the women left behind due to the migration of their husbands become more vulnerable. They had to face with life-long loneliness, hard work, financial break downs, stubbornness of children, stained relationships etc. The study concluded that remittance does not changed the economic status of the family nor the social status of the women left behind.

Mehta (1996) had a study about the income and standard of living of migrants in Kanpur an urban city in Utter Pradesh. For this he considered both migrants and non-migrant households. Since migrants are engaged in more remunerative jobs than non-migrants. Thus the study found that migrant households income situation and their life style is far better than non-migrants.

Roy and Nangia (2005) study focuses on the health status of left behind wives of migrant men in Bihar. The hypothesis of the study is that left behind wives have greater mental stress and more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections. The data for the study was collected from nine villages from two districts of Bihar. After separating the total households into migrant and non-migrant households a systematic random sampling technique was used to select the households. 354 left behind women and 192 wives of non-migrants were interviewed using structured questionnaire. Three aspects physical health, social well-being and mental stress of the left behind wives of migrants were compared to the wives of non-migrants. Findings of the study supports that migration of males improves the economic status of the households by the remittance received but at the same time absence of husband increases the

responsibilities of the wives left behind. Unlike non migrant households in migrant households, wives have to take independent decisions in various household matters. Though this involvement of left behind wife in decision making is a positive sign of autonomy but the heavy workload and lack of support and dependency from family members and society lead to mental stress to the left behind women. Thus the study found out that depression and feeling of loneliness along with a fall in health status are seen among wives of left behind women compared to others.

Paris,T et al. (2005) conducted a study on the livelihood of rice farmers in three districts of Utter Pradesh, where the majority males are migrants. The study focuses how migration and remittance helps in agriculture and on the left behind women. The remittance helps the rice cultivators in purchasing tools, implements and fertilizers and also for giving wages for farm workers. The male out migration changed the traditional role of women into farm managers in the absence of the males. Their participation in farm related matters improved women status, and thus the unpaid family helper turned to be decision makers. Thus male migration led to the empowerment of females left behind. But the lack of knowledge about modern technology of females in agriculture and the scarcity of laboures adversely affected agricultural sector. The results of the study found that migration increased the income of households in the form of remittances. They used this remittances for their daily needs, purchase of agricultural inputs and also for construction of houses.

Desai and Banerji (2008) in their paper studied about the impacts of male migration on left behind women. In the study two aspects in women's life that is autonomy and control over their lives and labour force participation of women is analyzed. The study was conducted using data from the Indian Human Development Survey 2005. They found out that family type is the main determining factor of women autonomy. According to them those who stay in extended families get less autonomy and labour force participation compared to women staying in nuclear families.

Datta,A and Mishra (2011) explores the role of male migration on the lives of women in rural Bihar to probe its effect on the existing patriarchal system followed in the state and also on its impact on the well- being and empowerment of the left behind women. It is seen that one of the consequences of male migration is a paramount reorganization the gender relations. Many women started to take decisions regarding

the education of the children, and managing the remittance. This study specifically analyses the pay offs in the area of left behind women's work, decision making power and capability in money managing skills. Obviously, the male migration has motivated the women to engage in more activities and move out for both leisure and work.

Sinha, B et al. (2012) studied about husband's migration and women's empowerment. The objective of the study was to determine the factors effecting empowerment of women and to find women's autonomy in decision making regarding household purchases, mobility and access to money. Also the study attempts to find the socio-economic variations in the level of empowerment. For the analysis data is taken from NFHS (2005-2006). Both wives of migrants and non-migrants were considered for the study. Multinomial logistic regression models were used to analyse the data. In the study women empowerment is measured mainly on three indicators – their decision making power, restrictions placed on them and their mobility. Ten independent variables like age of women, education, household structure, place of residence, marital duration etc. were considered. The study found out that male migration had no significant impact on the empowerment of women. But certain variables like education, marital duration, place of residence etc. influence women's decision making power.

Sarkar, D (2012) took 50 households of left behind women to study various factors related to these women like their leadership qualities, Division of labor among the rural left behind women corresponding to gender, Decision making skills, Freedom of movement and social security and Empowerment. The survey and study in West Bengal finally concluded that the male migration has showered on the left behind women a fair amount of freedom of movement and ability to handle finance matters which otherwise was denied to them. The decision made by the left behind women are given due respect although in most cases these choices are dictated over the phone by their husbands. The survey results suggested that the comparatively the left behind women are more satisfied than the other women who enjoys the presence of their husbands due to the freedom and sense of independence that accompanies the migration of their male counterparts. The competency to make strategic life decisions is another benefit added to the already mentioned ones.

Singh, K.M et al. (2013) examined women empowerment by male migration in Bihar. According to them the main reason for migration is economical. The remittance improved saving, standard of living, health, education of the migrant families. The study was based on 400 households, in that 200 migrant households and 200 non migrant households were taken from 8 villages of Bihar. The remittance where used to buy agricultural inputs. The left behind women started to work out side. Thus their workload increased. Empowerment was assessed by the decision making power of women. The study found out that women's role has changed from mere family worker to a manager. This tendency was seen in nuclear, low caste and poor families than in rich high caste joint families.

Lakshmi (2013) studied about the impact of migration on left behind women in Tamil Nadu. The main objective of the study is to find out the changing role in the status and power of the left behind wives. International migration of males and flow of remittance to the home is one of the major means for the improvement in the status and well-being of the women left behind. The study examines the socio economic factors which change the well-being of women in the household. The primary data for the study is taken from Melapalayam-south, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. A systematic purposive sampling technique was used to select the 200 sample households in which 150 from migrant households and 50 from non-migrant households. In the study the attitude, decision making power and the activity profile of the left behind women are taken as dependent variables. Independent variables like family system, presence and absence of husbands, duration of stay, income, age, education etc. are used to predict changes in the dependent variables. Regression and Chi square were used to find association and comparison between variables. The final result of the study came to the conclusion that migration of husbands has only limited effects on the left behind women. The results of the study indicate that women in migrant households have more mobility when compared to women in non-migrant households. But both are not doing any income generating activities. The study concludes by supporting the factors like longer duration of absence of husband from households and women's stay in nuclear family give more decision making power to women.

Agasty,A.P and Patra (2014) studied about the left behind women in rural Odisha. As a result of male migration from rural area the left behind women have to shoulder greater responsibilities. The objective of the study is to examine whether the responsibilities leads to the empowerment of women. The data for the study was taken by 5 stage random sampling method. Total 200 samples were taken in that 50 were from non-migrant households, 50 from return migrant households and 100 samples were from migrant households. Simple statistical techniques were used to quantify the information's collected by the survey. Indices were prepared to analysis role of decision making, freedom of mobility , work force participation and empowerment of different category of women. From the analysis it was concluded that women in migrant household especially women in nuclear families have greater responsibility and have greater role in decision making, mobility and work force participate.

Impact of internal and international migration on Eastern UP was studied by Singh,S.K (2014). Eastern UP is with high population, poor natural resources and low economic activity leading to poverty and unemployment. Thus migration is considered as a livelihood strategy. The study examines economic and non-economic determinants of internal and international migration along with the remittance utilization pattern and its its impact on household economy is discussed in the study. Multistage stratified random sampling method was used to select the sample households. Samples from international migrant households, internal migrant households and non-migrant households were taken for meaning full comparison. The study found out that migration had quantitatively and qualitatively improved the education of children of migrant households compared to non-migrant households. Similar improvement can be seen in the household equipments of the migrant households. Thus it concluded that the socio economic status of the migrant households is far better than non-migrant households.

Das,M (2018) studied about the left behind women in rural Bihar. The study was conducted in two villages one with highest out migrant ratio. The objective of the study is to analyses the socio economic profile of the left behind women. Qualitative research methodology was adopted for the study. The study found that most of the left behind women in the study area belong to lower caste and are land less too. Thus migration of their men is for their livelihood. But the remittance from their husbands

is insufficient for their daily needs. Thus the left behind women are forced to work. They are engaged in agricultural works, cattle rearing, fish relating (traditional occupation of Bihar) and home based beedi rolling etc. The author compared the left behind women with women staying along with the husband. The women whose husband migrated are mostly lower caste and women whose husband does not migrated are upper caste. The study also found that it is the left behind women who are more engaged in outdoor activities than others.

Maity,K (2018) had a study about the impacts of male out migration on the women left behind in West Bengal. The objective of the study is to determine the factors influencing women empowerment in matters on decision making, mobility, and economic control. Primary data used for the study was selected purposely from 4 backward districts of West Bengal. Total 640 samples were collected using questionnaire of NFHS-3, 2005-2006. Wives of migrants and non-migrants were considered in the study. According to the theoretical frame work based on Amin *et al.* 1998, the concept of empowerment was split into 3 components-inter spouse consultation index which includes the restrictions imposed on the women, individual autonomy index which includes women's mobility and financial management and authority index which includes women's decision making power. Age, education, marital duration, household status, residential status, occupation etc. are some factors which influence the empowerment of women in the study area. But the results of the study show that out migration of male members has not generated any significant impact on the empowerment of women.

Singh,R (2018) in her study about the impacts of male migration on women left behind. The objective of the study is to understand the socio-economic and psychological impacts of migration on left behind women. The problems and prospects of left behind women were analyzed. The study was conducted using data collected from two villages in Utter Pradesh. A primary survey of 100 women from migrant households was randomly selected using snowball methodology. Both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used in the study. The results show both positive and negative impacts on women. Increased income leads to improved social status and decision making power along with financial management and mobility which leads to empowerment at the same time the work burden of the left behind

women increased. The study found that these left behind women were physically, socially and verbally abused by others and are haunted by feelings of insecurity and loneliness. Since women are the main actors of development in rural areas, authorities should provide with some technical knowledge in agriculture and should provide them certain awareness about their rights and gender equality.

Saha,S et al.(2018) opined that early migration literature give importance to migrants at their destinations and the remittance they receive. The families left behind at the origin received attention only recently. Thus this study fill this void and aims to find out the impact of male migration in rural areas on the wellbeing of left behind women and their family with special reference to their empowerment and related factors. Remittance is one of the important factors which affect the wellbeing of the women left behind. Both positive and negative outcomes of migration on the left behind women are well said in the study.

2.2.3 State level studies

The study of Mathew and Nair (1978) about the socio economic conditions of emigrants and their households is considered as one of the very first study in this area in Kerala. The study examined the history of migration in India and in Kerala. In India migration started with the British recruitment of indentured labours with little qualification and experience to Singapore, Malaya, Ceylon, Mauritius and South Africa. The outbreak of First World War came to an end to this type of migration. Then during the post-independence period emigration again started but this time highly educated and qualified migrated to developed countries. Less educated people got an opportunity to emigrate when Persian Gulf region started converting their oil prosperity into constructional activities. Muslims of Kerala were the major source of labour supply. Three main aspects were discussed in this study were Cause, Cost and Returns. Here unemployment and poverty was the cause whereas money and non-money being the cost and the difference in income in origin and destination means the returns. The study area purposively taken was two costal panchayats of Trivandrum-Perumathura a muslim majority area and Puthukurichi a Christian majority area.91 households from former and 34 from the latter was taken to get 125 samples. Details about major socio economic aspects were collected from local people like LIC agent, newspaper correspondent, local religious head and return migrants settled in the area.

The study found a shortage of agricultural and constructional workers accompanied by more buildings and land transactions due to flow of remittance by migration in this area.

Prakash (1978) had a micro level study about emigration from Kerala to Gulf countries. The study proceeded using primary data collected from 95 emigrant households in Chavakkad village of Trissur district. The socio economic lives of emigrant households were examined in the study. There were 136 migrants in the 95 sample households. The study found that majority migrants are unskilled and worked in construction projects in Gulf countries. Their remittances helped them to improve their standard of living. They used remittances for purchasing land, constructing buildings and houses and for conducting marriages. These unproductive investments with foreign remittance lead to increase in the price of land, construction materials and wage of labourers in the state.

Gulati,L (1983) in her article in 1980s explored about male migration to Middle East from Kerala and its impacts on the families. Since the socio psychological impacts of migration cannot be quantified, on the other hand impact on remittance and extent of migration can be quantified and analyzed easily researchers and policy makers are interested in the latter and neglected the former. Leela Gulati was the one among the pioneers who focused towards women left behind in migration studies. In the paper she discussed first about the extent and pattern of migration from India and in particular Kerala and secondly about its impacts on women and family. At the time of her study about 50 percent of Indian migrants in Middle east were from Kerala. Thrissur, Malappuram and Kannur where the highest migrant populated districts then. The study found out that most of the migrants at that time were males of young age and having low skills. The main economic impact on migration is the remittance resulting improved standard of living especially in case of housing, and education of children. Another major impact of migration is the increased family interdependence and strong kin networks. Lastly the most important findings of the study is that women become independent with freedom of mobility and having capacity to manage bank dealings by herself even in traditional families in the absence of their males. At the same time wives at young age had to suffer loneliness and long

separation and lack of communication facilities from their husbands leads to tension, pressure, conflicts, anxieties etc. leading to psychological stress and strain.

Socio-economic impact of male migration on the left behind women was studied by Gulati,L(1987), using 37 migrant households in Trivandrum. In this in-depth study she discussed the matters in two headings that is the dependency and the coping with the migrants absence. Dependency of the migrant and their family members, relatives, friends and neighbors is very much significant which starts even before the migrant's first move to Middle East from the family and continue for few years. The migration impact is a dynamic process which changes according to the length of migrant's stay abroad. After few years, gradually the women left behind become self- reliant and cope with migrant's absence. The impact of migration on family is very much related to the women's age and stage of family life-cycle. The women thus become capable of managing all responsibilities of households by themselves. Her experience inside and outside the home made her more confident to face the life.

Nair, P.R (1989) studied about the impact of Gulf migration on the economy of Kerala. According to his study remittances neither helped the state economy and its production activities. Thus large scale migration did not decrease unemployment situation in the state. But construction activities, banking and insurance sector had a great growth due to Gulf migration and remittances. As a result of migration of large scale unskilled and semi-skilled workers toGulf created a scarcity of construction workers in Kerala which further led to an immigration of labours from other states to India. To make advantage from the Gulf remittances and to increase economic activities, the author sugested to include this in planning activity and also recommended the rehabilitation of return migrants.

Ommen (1989) in his study examined the issue of brain drain of talented Indians to developed countries. Secondary data sources where used to get details about scientists and professionals from India for the study. The study analyses two views on brain drain, that is less developed countries with its scarce resources invest huge amount for the higher education of those people and after that fruits of their talents are not invested in the home country. But only few are migrating to developed countries after having higher education and also they send back their remittance to their relatives in

the origin. Thus the loss of educational investment upon them is returned to the home country in the form of remittance.

Sidheeque, (1992), studied about the migratory pattern to understand the impact of Gulf money on the emigrant households and their standard of living. He took Malappuram for the study because once the district was considered as one of the backward districts in Kerala but with largest number of migrants. The study found that due to migration the education, health and standard of living of the migrants improved a lot. At the same time a shortage of agricultural workers occurred due to the interest of people in white collar jobs. Migration and remittances resulted in a change in the saving and investment pattern of the people. People started a habit of saving and investing money in buildings which further lead to an increase in wage rate and thereby a flow of workers occurred from outside Kerala.

Gulati,L (1993) examined the women in migrant households and found the male dominated families have become female dominated with the departure of their male counter parts. The study was conducted during 1990. Primary data for the study was taken from the left behind women in migrant households of Trivandrum. This is one of the fore most detailed studies about the left behind women, which includes many case studies also. She found that migration empowered the left behind women. It is those women who now control the spending and investment in the households using the remittances. It is the left behind women who manage their property, children's education etc. Thus international migration breaks the women's isolation which increases the mobility, and had made contact with wide verity of institutions like bank, school, hospitals, post offices etc. The study found that even though there are some burden and difficulties to women in the absence of their husbands especially in the period immediately after the migrant's first departure, but gradually the forced exposure into the socio- economic environment made them more bold and responsible which give them a higher social status.

Gulati,L (1995) in her article 'Migration and social change,' pictured the migration situation of Kerala. During 1980s, 50 percent of migrant population in India was from Kerala. The author was one among the pioneers who shifted the focus of migration study in Kerala from males towards women and children who left behind. The author specifies that there can be short term and long term impact on migration. Short term

impact occurs immediately after the departure of the migrant and that of long term impact occur after few years of departure. Women play an active role in organizing networks, contributing jewelry to raise finance for the expense of travel and finally the willingness to support the whole family in the absence of their husbands. In the initial period in the absence of the husband, the woman had to suffer many hard ships and thus requires support from immediate relatives, friends, and neighbors to manage the household tasks. But after few years, gradually the long absence of their husband makes them cope with the situation courageously and boldly.

Sehkar (1996) had a study about the impact on international migration on rural left behind women. He had the study in Kadapuram village in Chavakkad block in Trissur and Valavannur in Tanur block of Malappuram, both the villages were economically and socially underdeveloped. He investigated 132 wives of gulf returnees, so that the situations in the absence of the husband as well as in the presence can be well narrated by them.. The study carried out in four sections. The first section dealt with the profile of the respondent and their socio economic conditions. Second section dealt with the women in their changed role in the absence of their husbands and the third section with the return of their husbands and last about the kinship and support system achieved by family during the absence of their males. 20 years before the economic and social backgrounds were very poor still in the absence of their males women started taking household responsibilities, took part in decision making, give importance for education and started interacting with outside world. Thus his study found a positive impact of emigration of males on left behind women. But it was noticed that loneliness along with lack of communication facilities made emotional stress and psychological strain to women which made the situation worse. But still women managed the situation and become more capable, independent and confident. Second section dealt with the women in their changed role in the absence of their husbands and the third section with the return of their husbands and last about the kinship and support system achieved by family during the male absence.

Prakash (1998) also had a macro level study using secondary data, which examined the economic impact of migration on Kerala economy. The study found half Indian emigrants and half remittance is from Kerala. Thus the Gulf migration and remittances had made changes in the macro economic variables like saving,

investment, consumption, poverty, income distribution, labour market etc. The study noticed the importance of Malabar region in migration and its development mainly in service sector and its fast movement towards urbanization. Migration made migrant households to get higher level of income, consumption and asset holdings. This reduced the overall poverty of the state but increased the income disparity. The study found along with large flow of Gulf money into the state resulted in rise in price of land, construction materials, consumer goods, and charges on health, education and transportation. This affected badly the non- migrant households.

Nair,K.R (1998) examined the unproductive utilization of remittance in Kerala. He collected data from Varkala, Chavakkad and Tanur regions having high concentration of emigrants from districts of Trivandrum, Trissur and Malappuram respectively. Due to the unproductive investment of remittance created inflation, increase land price, income inequality in the economy. The study found that as the emigrants duration of stay abroad increases the volume of remittances also increases. The study suggest government to provide an environment to invest safely and productively the remittance of the emigrants which further leads to the economic and social development of the society. CDS working papers are one of the few main sources of information related to the migration studies.

Sehkar (1998) examined about the gulf emigration and issues related to return emigrants. The author insists the migrants to invest their remittances productively so that they can use its fruits in future while they return home.

Zachariah and Rajan (1999), in their first migration survey which covered the entire state. The aim of the study was to analysis the dynamics and determines of migration. The study helps to formulate policies for the development of migration and also solutions for the problems caused by migration. Total sample size was 10000 households taken from 200 panchayats/ municipalities spread over 14 districts all over Kerala. The study underlined the root cause of migration, the Kerala model of development which gives importance to social sector and avoiding productive sector. In the first study itself the peculiarity of Malappuram district was noticed with largest number of migrants and highest in remittance along with highest in birth rate, population growth rate, family size, population of illiterates.

Zachariah and Rajan (2000), the study observed some structural and behavioral and demographic changes in Kerala due to migration. It was noticed in the study that unlike other district Malappuram having some peculiarities like highest fertility rate, lowest age at marriage, lowest contraceptive use. Emigration has a negative impact on mortality in Kerala. Migration leads to increase in fertility due to structural factors and decrease in fertility due to behavioral factors but in the case of Malappuram district no evidence of behavioral factors are observed. This paper also focuses on the issues of the left behind wives and the elderly population of the emigrants. The study was based on the results of KMS survey 1998. The study found that the gulf wives had to suffer many hardships like loneliness, heavy responsibilities and psychological stress. But by the absence of their husbands the wives get an opportunity to perform their talents and skills. Thus gain autonomy, independence and status for the left behind women. Thus the migration of husbands transformed wives to strong powerful self-confident women. This in turn benefits themselves, their families, to society and the economy. Thus the study found that for gulf wives migration of males causes certain initial hardships but it turns to be a blessing with several benefits.

Zachariah et al.(2001) examined about the socio economic and demographic features of return migrants in Kerala. The study found that they did not have occupational mobility and most of them do not possess any talents, technical know-how and entrepreneurial skills. The problems faced by return migrants are also discussed in the study. The Rehabilitation of return migrants was one of major challenge faced by the government. Due to the lack of profit making self-employment units return emigrants were not able to rehabilitate themselves and most of them become casual worker.

Kannan and K. S Hari (2002) had a study about the importance of remittances in GDP of a country. Authors are of the opinion that remittance is not only important to the emigrant's family but also to the country as a whole. In 2008 remittances to India was USD 52 billion, this was 4.2 percent of GDP at the same time Kerala's remittances was USD10.4 billion which was 30.7 percent of SDP. The study analysed time series data of remittance from 1970 to 2008. The impact of remittance in Kerala economy is seen in the household consumption saving and investment. The amount of remittance reflects in the quality of housing and the possession of modern consumer durables,

education and health in Kerala households. The study also found a reduction in poverty and unemployment situation in Kerala due to remittances flow.

Zachariah et al. (2002), in their third series of migration survey examined the working conditions of emigrants in UAE unlike other studies it collected data from UAE. Its objective was to find the demand of labour in different categories of emigrants and to examine the problems faced by the emigrants. At the time of the survey there were unskilled and semi-skilled workers are there in UAE but in the future the requirement of labours will be skilled and professionals. The study provided many recommendations to improve the working conditions of emigrants.

Zachariah et al. (2003), in their study discusses about the causes and consequences of migration from Kerala. The study aimed to minimize the adverse social economical and psychological consequences of migration and to maximize the developmental impact of migration. For this the study attempted in finding the magnitude and dimension of migration in Kerala. They examined the impact of migration on demographic transition, labor market, status of women, children and elderly in migrant households. In the study both migrant and non-migrant households were considered. A special survey of gulf wives were also taken their personal characteristics, history of separation, frequency and means of communication, women autonomy, their problems and prospects were also discussed. This macro study was considered as an inspiration behind the present micro level study by the researcher. The results of the study found that impact of migration can be positive and negative depending on the ability and back ground of the gulf wives. Major adverse consequences highlighted in the study were loneliness and major benefit was the financial gain. The economic consideration was not specifically mentioned as a factor among gulf wives in the study. 60 percent of gulf wives really wished their husband would leave gulf job and return home. Only for the other 40 percent said economic benefits out-weighted the burden they faces. The statistical analysis of the data using regression indicates birth rate and density of population significant and positively associated with emigration while per capita income is negatively associated with emigration rate.

Zachariah and Rajan (2004) in this study compared migration situation of 1999 to 2004, it is a revisit to the socio economic impact of migration between these two

phases. The number of gulf wives remains unchanged and also in the case of Malappuram district still continues with highest number of emigrants. The study found that the rate of unemployment and consumerism is increased by emigration.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2005), this working paper enquires deeply into the unemployment situation in Kerala during the period 1998 to 2004. The study found out some reason for large increase in unemployment. Entry of women into the labour force, aging of labour force, education and emigration are the major reasons.

Zachariah and Rajan,(2007) had studied the dynamics of migration for the period 1999-2004, data once again collected from the same households whose data was collected during KMS 1998. Trends in migration, remittance, and unemployment situations were analysed deeply. The study found a dynamic employment sector. The panel data analysis firmly confirms that aging and emigration are the two factors contributed to the increase in unemployment in Kerala during 1999-2004.

Zachariah and Rajan (2007) in this working paper deals with the short term trends and long term implication of migration, remittance and employment. This is the third in the series of Kerala migration survey. A declining rate of emigration is noticed in the study. Both emigrants and return migrants invest their wealth for the development of Kerala economy. Unemployment in the state decreased due to the emergence of employment opportunities in private and self-employment sectors. Emigrants, return migrants and the non-resident Keralites was the same as in 2003. The study observed international migration remained stationary during 2003- 2007. Demographic contraction and employment opportunities in the state are the reasons for this.

Zachariah and Rajan(2008) this study focuses on the household behavior pattern of people in Kerala. The annual remittance of Kerala is larger than annual expenditure. This was examined by the spending cost of households on various services like education, health, childbirth and loans. Data for the study was collected along with the CDS MMS 2007. 10000 households were considered for this study as in MMS 2007. The methodology used is a comparative analysis of households with and without non-resident Keralites. In education cost households without NRK spent a little more than households with NRK. In the case of health expenditure NRK households prefer private hospitals than government hospitals. Though household behavior has changed

a lot in Kerala but it cannot be confined to NRI households. The study concluded that the impact of emigration on household behavior shows no major difference in non NRI and NRI households.

Azeez,M and Begum(2009) studied about the economic impact of Gulf migration in Kerala. The inflow of remittances into Kerala economy increased the employment opportunities in the state and thus reduced the unemployment rate. Housing, transportation, education, health, and other infrastructure improved at the cost of remittances. Luxuries house construction becomes a trend among Gulf migrants. The study also suggests starting self-employment projects by the authorities for rehabilitation of the return emigrants.

Zachariah and Rajan,(2010),in their fourth series of migration monitoring study, by taking a sample of 15000 households with minimum 1000 households from each districts of Kerala, examined about emigration, return emigration and remittances in the situation of rise in oil price. While global recession was going on the Gulf countries everyone expected a fall in migration but the study found a large increase in emigrants, return emigrants and remittances. Though external migration increased internal migration decreased. Malappuram district and the Muslim community continue to retain its first position in total number of emigrants, return emigrants and remittances. The study noticed a change in the destination pattern earlier it was Saudi Arabia the most preferred destination place of Keralites changed to UAE. The study mention about the personal expenses of emigrants also. During the period of 2003 to2008, emigration increased by 19 percent but the remittance increased by 135 percent and it is to be noted that it was the time of global crisis. As in the earlier studies in this study also total remittances to the state and household remittance were calculated. Households with one or more emigrants and return emigrants are only about 26 percent. Therefore three – fourth of total households are not directly exposed to emigration. Only 17 percent households are receiving remittance but remittance were the third (31 percent) of Kerala's National State Domestic Product in 2008. The study also found a fall in unemployment rate in Kerala.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2012), in their fifth series of migration survey for the first time reported as a turning point indicating a declining trend .The study found a north ward shift in the origin of migration from Kerala. That is there is a trend towards more

emigrants from Malappuram to Kasargode districts. Health, education etc. of these district were more developed when compared to southern districts. The study observed that emigration and remittances remain most dynamic factor in Kerala economy. The religious composition of migration favored Muslim with 44.3 percent of emigrants. But in the religious composition of population Muslim were only 26 percent. The increase in remittance (15 percent) found much higher than increase in emigrants (5 percent). 46.5 percent of remittance is coming from Muslims. Gulf wives were also included in the study. According to the KMS 2008 and 2011 there are about 10 lakhs of gulf wives in that 25 percent is from Malappuram district. 24 percent of gulf wives are from Muslims followed by 5.9 and 6.7 percent from Christians and Hindus. Another finding of the study is that earlier emigration resulted in the equality of income but now emigration causes inequality in income. Earlier most migrants from Kerala were unskilled and semi-skilled engaged in construction activities whereas now most emigrants are educated and skilled.

Muneerabeevi (2012) in her study highlights the impact of Gulf migration on the left behind women. This is a comparative study conducted in patrilocal and matrilineal systems in Muslim community in Kannur and Kozhikode regions of Malabar; where there exist two residential patterns. The study used pure scientific methodology. Primary data was collected from 360 respondents using systematic sampling. The objectives of the study are to find the impact of gulf migration on left behind women on the structure of family life, housing status and the transformation of women's economic, educational, cultural and social status. Though male migration forces the women to take a lot of added responsibilities and challenges which leads to mental stress and emotional difficulties. The results of the study found that women in matrilineal families enjoy more freedom and flexibility than women in patrilocal families. Also migration improved the personality and self-confidence in the respondents. The study also found the women in nuclear family enjoy more privilege than women in joint family.

Researching international migration is the book written by Zachariah K.C and S Irudaya Rajan (2015) for the researchers in migration. The book introduces various areas for migration research, like problems and prospects of emigrants, return migrants and their families left behind, the remittance, cost of migration etc. The

methods, techniques and tools which suits migration studies are well described in the book. Related areas in international migration, that is about the left behind women- the gulf wives, elderly population, student migrants etc. were introduced to the researchers to explore in depth in their studies. How it should be analyzed and presented is also focused in the book. In the book author defines important terms related to migration like origin, destination, immigration, outmigration, emigration, etc. The book also explains about the series of migration survey named as Kerala Migration Survey, conducted by CDS started in 1998. 8 such different series of survey had completed by now. The objectives of those survey were to find the extend, trend and pattern of emigrants, return migrants, non-resident Keralites, out migrants, return out migrants and impact of migration on society and economy in general and in particular on the families left behind and also the impact of remittance on housing, household expenditure, education, employment, and on the economy as a whole. KMS took its samples from 14 districts with urban and rural stratum each. Total sample size was 10000 in earlier surveys then it was increased to 15000 in later surveys. The primary sampling unit is the households. This is selected by a Stratified Multistage Random sampling method. From each selected locality one ward was selected at random and 50 households were selected by a systematic random sampling method. Various econometric methods of regression, correlation, multivariate analysis were used to analyses data. Problems and prospects of left behind families have totally ignored in migration researches in Kerala. But KMS survey studied the socio-psychological issues also in their surveys.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2015), examined in their sixth series, about the impact of migration on Kerala economy during the past 15 years. The number of emigrants doubled and the remittances increased by more than five-fold when compared to 1998. Primary data collected from 15000 households selected at random by a stratified multi stage random sampling technique as in the previous surveys. In this paper the authors compares the estimate of KMS with the NORKA'S Pravasi Malayali Census, 2013 which is the first government attempt to calculate migrants census. According to Pravasi Malayali Census 2013, there are 16.3 lakhs of emigrants were as KMS estimated 24 lakhs. Both studies under estimated emigrants count but Pravasi Malayali Census had a much more under estimated data. The study found Malappuram retained its first position in Kerala with 19 percent of emigrants. An

increase in north ward shift in district of origin of emigrants and flow of remittance is also noted in the study as in earlier. Regarding destination UAE retained its number one position. The proportion Hindus in emigrants shows an increasing tendency. The study found a reduction in unemployment due to emigration. Increase in income inequality was under lined as said in earlier study.

Rafeek (2017) in his study attempted to link migration with human development, through its socio-economic impact at micro house hold level. For this he took data from the Kerala Migration survey-2016 conducted by CDS. He took Malappuram for the study because Muslims, the leading migratory community lives there. A total of 374 non-migrant households and 293 migrant households were considered in the study. 64 return migrants and 13out migrants also included in the study. A composite index of Human Development was prepared using 12 indicators for measuring health and educational status. The study hypothesized that Human development index is higher in migrant Muslim community with large inflow of remittance, when compared to other social groups. But the conclusion of the study found that there is no significant difference between the emigrant and non-migrant households in the matter of the education and health status. The study found there is a higher economic standard for migrant households when compared to non-migrant households but only moderate development in case social standards like health and education. Thus it is to be noted that, apart from emigration and remittance, other factors like government policies and attitude of the people are all important in improving the human development among the Muslim in Malappuram District.

Prakash (2018) examines the socio - economic impacts of emigration on labour market, consumption, savings, investments, poverty, income distribution and economic growth in Kerala economy. The study hypothesized that the factor which has the greatest impact on Kerala economy was gulf migration and remittance. In the study the author mentioned about two type of migration that is settlement migration and contract migration. In settlement migration educated and skilled people migrate to developed countries with family to settle there and spend their entire income in that county itself. This type of migration leads to brain drain in the origin country. In contract migration less educated, unskilled and semi-skilled people move alone without family and send remittance regularly to the households in the origin. The

study found that the economic impact of migration is higher in northern district of Kerala. Emigration resulted in reduction of unemployment and a shortage of casual workers in Kerala. This increased the income level of poor households. The volume of remittance was larger than the total expenditure of Kerala government. Thus the study supported and accepted hypothesis that the factor which has greatest impact on Kerala economy was Gulf migration and remittances. One of the negative consequences of migration was the price rise of land which made difficult for the middle income and salaried people to purchase land for construction of houses.

Based on Kerala Migration Survey 2013, Rajan and Zahariah (2018) had studied about left behind women their problems and prospects. Their survey results found that by the absences of their husbands due to the international migration provides an environment fostering women's autonomy, self-esteem and role expansion. The life styles, consumption pattern, housing, health, education status etc. improved a lot by remittance flow. Women left behind is highest among Muslim community and in the age group 25 to 29. Women left behind get an opportunity to develop new enterprise by doing responsibilities once done by their male counterparts. This increases their self-confidence, independence and social status. The advent of new technology in communication had resolved many problems associated with husband and wife's communication. But the impact of migration on left behind women can be positive or negative depending on their ability and family environment in which they live.

Rajan and Sunitha, (2018), in their study about the demographic changes in Kerala found that aging as the end product of demographic transition. The study also found migration as a great relief for unemployment problem in Kerala. It was found that one out of 5 households is having one or more emigrants. The study found that migration and remittance lead to socio- economic development directly and indirectly in human resource development land ownership, housing, life style etc. Emigrant's importance given for education can be seen from the education style of their children. Migrants from other states attracted to Kerala due to the wage rate in the state. The study suggests that the growing elderly population should make productive and thus considered as a resource and not as a burden.

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by the absences of their husbands due to the international migration provides an environment fostering women's autonomy, self-esteem and role expansion. The life styles, consumption pattern, housing, health, education status etc. improved a lot by remittance flow. Women left behind is highest among Muslim community and in the age group 25 to 29. Women left behind get an opportunity to develop new enterprise by doing responsibilities once done by their male counterparts. This increases their self-confidence, independence and social status. The advent of new technology in communication had resolved many problems associated with husband and wife's communication. But the impact of migration on left behind women can be positive or negative depending on their ability and family environment in which they live.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2019), in KMS 2018, which is the latest and eighth in the series of ongoing migration monitoring study is the 20th year in migration survey research started in 1998. The objectives of the study are to estimate total count of migrants and their destinations and about the remittances. The socio-economic and demographic dynamics of migration is also examined. The study also includes return migrants and their problems. This paper also explores the reasons for their decrease in migration from Kerala. The reasons for fall in emigration are also examined. There were a 3 lakhs decrease in emigrants but the remittances increased this occurred due to higher wages earned by the emigrants. Same sample size and methodology of 15000 sample households from 500 localities, both urban and rural were taken for the study. Women, children and elderly left behind had to suffer many problems like loneliness anxiety and depression.

2.3 Research gap

The various reviews about theories and studies establish various aspects and implication about migration and its effects on the socio economic status of society in general and migrant household and their left behind wives in particular. However the reviews show certain gaps in available literature on migration. Most of the state level studies explored the impact of migration on Kerala economy in general macro level. Only few studies in Kerala focused solely on left behind women, their problems and prospects in micro household level. One among them was Leela Gulathi's study about left behind women in Kerala during 1990s. The study highlighted the psychological and emotional hardships along with their survival pattern at that period. In other micro

studies (B.A Prakash 1978, E.T Mathew and Gopinathan Nair 1978) it was observed that when males emigrate abroad for jobs their wives were left with in-laws, parents or with other relatives. It was rare at that time that women and children were left behind alone. But now majority left behind women stay in nuclear families dealing with inside and outside household responsibilities alone.

Micro level studies about the left behind women in Malappuram district are very rare. Also the studies in this area after the advent of social media are negligible. The impact on left behind women by the entry of social media and improvement of communication facilities are not well explored. Thus there is dearth of studies which examined the impact of migration on left behind women in the present scenario in Kerala or in a particular district. The present study is proposed in this context, which is aimed to fill this void.