

Lijy Dominic “International male migration and its impact on left behind women in Kerala – A study of Malappuram district.” Thesis. Research and Post Graduate Department of Economics, St. Thomas’ College (Autonomous), Thrissur, University of Calicut, 2021.

economic status by income or employment, have more decision making power, mobility, financial management and a positive inter-spouse consultation.

7.3 Validation of hypothesis

The hypothesis of the study that, there is a significant association between international male migration and empowerment of left behind women in the study area has been supported by the regression analysis results. The findings of the present study and the results of multiple regression analysis validate the hypothesis. Result of regression analysis made it clear that migration status itself as one of the major factor in determining empowerment of women in the study area. Migration status gives women an exposure to experience various opportunities which were once inaccessible for them and still not accessible to women in non-migrant households. Thus, migration status can be said as a window of opportunity which can be utilized for empowerment of respondents in the study area.

7.4 Policy implication

Since independence government of India has been making various efforts to empower women. But still Indian women lag behind in status. State government also took many measures to improve their situation. The findings of the study will help in understanding the positive and negative impacts of male migration on women left behind. This will help in framing new policies for the betterment of migrants and their left behind wives. The study is crucial not only for providing a basis for rational in planning matters relating to women empowerment but also in dealing with the feminine issues and assessing them and making a transition, to a better way of life. Hope the study provides exciting opportunity to advance the knowledge and scope of research in the particular area towards the wellbeing of left behind women.

7.5 Areas for future research

Women empowerment achieved through international migration is a vast area for study with different dimensions. In this study all the aspects of emigration on left behind women is not covered. Only the socio-economic and psychological impacts of migration on left behind women were focused in this study. Detailed studies on the

impact of international migration, particularly in the context of male migration from other districts and its consequences on women left behind women is still very scarce and it needs a prominent field of enquiry and investigation.

7.6 Limitations of the study

Since empowerment is a multidimensional concept it is not possible to include all the dimensions in the study. This study concentrated only on the socio-economic and psychological empowerment of left behind women in Malappuram district of Kerala due to the international migration of their husband and a resulting flow of remittances. The study can be widened and expanded to larger areas and dimensions for better results. Another practical limitation was the lack of up to date reliable secondary data which restricted the study. In primary data collection also some respondents were reluctant to reveal accurate information regarding income, assets and certain personal matters.

Conclusion

To conclude finally, whatever the impact of international migration, the left behind women are developing an innate capacity to tackle problems not only within the family but also in the society in which they live. Moreover the increased income with the status equal to that of any man in their vicinity push out all the other problems associated with the absence of their husbands in a secondary level. Fortunately the incredible development in communication technology in the present scenario, made the distance shorter, frequency of visits increased, interaction with husbands became closer through mobile and web and thus reduced the pain of loneliness and isolation of left behind women. International male migration brought a lot of material change; the women left behind also gained a larger vision of the world around her. For the smooth running of family life, emigration of their husbands is the better choice in front of them and of- course the economic benefits together with the freedom and self-esteem enjoyed by left behind women always outweighed the burdens not only for today, but for the brighter tomorrow.