

Trends, Patterns and Changes of 21st Century Kerala Migration to the United Arab Emirates

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In

Indian Diaspora

By

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DECLARATION

Center for the Study of Indian Diaspora University of Hyderabad

I, **Mohamed Musthafa KT** hereby declare that the research embodied in the present dissertation entitled “**Trends, Patterns and Changes of 21st Century Kerala Migration to the United Arab Emirates**” is carried out under the supervision of **Dr. Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, Centre for the Study of Indian Diaspora**, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Indian Diaspora, is an original work of mine and to the best of my knowledge no part of this dissertation has been submitted for the award of any research degree or diploma at any University. I also declare that this is a bonafide research work which is free from plagiarism. I hereby agree that my thesis can be uploaded in Shodhganga/INFLIBNET.

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Part of this thesis have been:

A. Research Papers published in the following publications.

1. “Return Migration as Inevitable side of the Kerala Gulf Migration: Through the Return Migration of Gulf Malayalees”, International Journal of Social Sciences and Economic Research, Volume 3, No 7, July 2018, ISSN: 2455-8834, pp. 3090-3100
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Further, the student has passed the following courses towards fulfillment of coursework requirement for PhD and was exempted from doing coursework (recommended by Doctoral Committee) on the basis of the following courses passed during his M.Phil. Program and the M.Phil. Degree was awarded.

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Abbreviations

CDS	Center for Development Studies
USA	United States of America
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
UAE	United Arab Emirates
NRI	Non Resident Indian
PIO	Person of Indian Origin
UK	United Kingdom
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
KMS	Kerala Migration Survey
KMCC	Kerala Muslim Cultural Center
NRK	Non Resident Keralites
GST	Goods and Services Tax
SSLC	Secondary School Leaving Certificate
NORKA	Non Resident Keralite Affairs
UN	United Nations

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Human life is not a stagnant one. It is floating over time. Persons have been on the move since the origin of human societies (Brown, 2007). From ancient times to the present, the history of humankind has faced various phases, trends and changes in their migration patterns. It is an inevitable fact that human history could not be analyzed without the process of migration as it is intertwined with the process of migration. TV Sekher (1997) observed that migration is a major demographic process that has been an unavoidable feature of human history since the time of human origin. Migration is the process of movement of people from one place to another. M.S.A Rao (1986) pointed out that migration is a process of shift in the place of residence. Short visits and tours were not considered in this category. Both voluntary and involuntary movement of people is included in the process of migration. In ancient times, there was no burden of national boundaries and hence, anyone can move anywhere for their needs and requirements until the concept of the nation-state is formed. As Robin Cohen (1996) has rightly pointed out, the process of movement of people has been visible since the origin of human history. Hunting, gathering and nomadism were also noted in the early periods. Natural calamities, extreme climatic changes, famine, epidemics and territorial encroachment by other societies, etc., are also a common phenomenon in human history. Migration was one of the basic needs for human survival like food, shelter, and cloth as it was their struggle for existence until the invention of cultivation. The movement of people from one area to another area has been continuing even after this because of the best opportunity or survival. Shuchi Kapuria (2017, p. 31) pointed out that “earliest attempts at explaining the most basic question of reason to migrate involved scholars identifying push and pull factors such as lack of economic

opportunities, religious or political molestation, the occurrence of natural calamities, family reunification, better living and working conditions, and so on”. Global migration report 2017 indicates that there are approximately 258 million migrants across the world. It was 220 million migrants in 2010 and 173 million in 2000 (International Migration Report, 2017). This shows the new trend of migration whether it is voluntary or involuntary. But statistics have shown the increasing trend of migration between 2010 and 2015. Twenty-two million migrants increased in 2015 with ten percentage growth within five years as compared with 2010 (ibid).

India, the vast land of unity and diversity, the cradle of human civilization and the second largest populated nation in the world is not free from the migration. The history of Indian migration goes to ancient and medieval periods that India has experienced such a huge migration of people from India to different parts of the world as in the 19th and 20th centuries to the Dutch, Britain and French colonies (Sahoo and Narayan, 2008). The migration trend in India has both advantages and disadvantages. World migration report quoted that India has the largest diaspora population in the world with 16 million Indians across the world and Mexico leading as second with 12 million Diaspora population. With the 11 million Diaspora population, Russian Federation is third in the list. China, the highest populated nation in the world is on the fourth position in the matter of the Diaspora population with 10 million Chinese nationals across the globe (International Migration Report, 2016). The Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs’ report revealed that India has 31.2 million (3, 12, 33, 234) diaspora across the world till December 2016 (Government of India, 2017). It shows that the Indian Diaspora is working as a robust community across the globe. Indian Diaspora is spreading almost over 205 countries in the world except for San Marino, Holy See, and Pakistan. The United States of America (USA) has the most significant number of Indian Diaspora with 4.4 million (4,460,000). It is counted as 14 percent of the total Indian Diaspora. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has the second-largest Indian communities with 0.32 million

Indian Diaspora (32, 55,864) with 10 percent of the entire Indian Diaspora. With 0.29 million (29, 75,000) population of Indian Diaspora, Malaysia moves to the third position in the matter of Indian Diaspora with ten percent of total Indian Diaspora; the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has two point eight million (280,375,1) Indian diaspora with nine percent of total Indian Diaspora. Six percent of the Indian Diaspora community lives in Myanmar with 0.2 million (20, 08, 690) population of Indian Diaspora. These five countries such as the USA, KSA, Malaysia, UAE, and Myanmar carry more than 50 percent of the total Indian diaspora. Except for the UAE and KSA, the other three countries diaspora connection with India has been started since the colonial rule by “indenture labor system”. Indian Diaspora in the UAE and KSA are the result of 20th-century migration phenomenon especially the last decades of the 20th century due to the oil boom. Table (1.1) shows the details of the most significant number of Indians in different countries.

Largest Number of Indian Diaspora in Ten Countries (Table 1.1)

S no	Countries	NRIs	PIOs	Total Number of Indian Diaspora	Total percent of Indian Diaspora
1	United States of America	12,80,000	31,80,000	44,60,000	14 %
2	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	32,53,901	1,963	32,55,864	10 %
3	Malaysia	2,25,000	27,50.000	29,75,000	10%
4	United Arab Emirates	2,800,000	3751	2,803751	9%
5	Myanmar	8,690	2,000,000	20,08,690	6%
6	United Kingdom	325,000	1,500,000	1,825,000	6%
7	Sri Lanka	14000	1,600,000	1,614,000	5%
8	South Africa	60,000	1,500,000	1,56,0000	5%
9	Canada	184,320	831,865	1,016185	3%
10	Kuwait	9,17,970	1,384	9,19,354	3%

Source: Population of overseas Indians 2017, Government of India.

Table (1.1) clearly shows the dominance of Indian Diaspora in different countries. Interestingly, 78 percent of Indian Diaspora is concentrated only in ten countries. India has manifested a strong socio-political and economic connection with these countries for centuries. It also reveals the number of Non- Resident Indians (NRI)¹ and the Number of Person of Indian Origin (PIO)² separately.

The abolition of slavery by the British Government in 1834 is treated as the landmark of Indian migration. From 1834 onwards, Indians started moving to different colonies of France, Portugal, and British till the first world war of 1914 under the system called “the Indentured labor”. Theoretically, indentured labor migration was another version of slavery. The second phase of Indian migration marked the beginning of 20th century to developed countries and continents such as the USA, UK, Australia, and Western Europe, Canada, etc. It was the migration of highly educated ones and professionals. The third Phase of Indian migration was to the Middle East because of the oil boom. The Gulf migration slowly started in the first quarter of the 20th century became dominant in the last quarter of the 20th century. Binod Khadria (2015) observed that besides Europe and the US, the six GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries together formed the third most important destination, called the global destinations for migrants within Asia is the Middle East. It is imperative to analyze the number of Indian Diaspora communities across the Middle East. Following table shows the number of Indian Diaspora in the Middle East.

¹ The term NRI refers to “an Indian Citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian passport” (http://ociapplication.com/docs/CHART_pio).

² The term PIO means “a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) who at any time held an Indian passport or who or either of their of parents / grandparents / great grandparents/ were born and permanently resident in India as defined in Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries or who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin” (https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryQuickLink/703_PIO-OCI.pdf).

Number of Indians in GCC Countries (Table 1.2)

Serial no	GCC Countries	NRI	PIO	Total population	Percentage
1	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	32,53,901	1,963	32,55,864	37%
2	United Arab Emirates	28,00,000	3,751	28,03,751	32%
3	Kuwait	9,17,970	1,384	9,19,354	10%
4	Oman	7,83,040	919	7,83,959	9%
5	Qatar	6,97,000	500	6,97,500	8%
6	Bahrain	312,918	3,257	316,175	4%
	Total	87,64,829	11,774	87,76,603	100%

Source: Population of overseas Indians 2017, Government of India

Table 1.2 indicates that GCC countries constitute around 27 percent of the total Indian Diaspora population and 66 percent of the Indian NRI population. It is interesting to note that only six countries have that much Indian Diaspora population, and KSA and the UAE respectively share 19 percent of the total Indian diaspora population with 45 percent of the total Indian NRI population. These two countries are the favorite destinations of Indians to migrate as shown in the statistics. The migration of Indians to GCC countries has been passed through different stages and trends.

Gulf Migration functioned a pivotal role in the socio-economic and infrastructural development of the Indian state of Kerala. Development is highly dependent on the number of migrants and their earnings as well. Kerala is the most benefiting state because of the Gulf migration and its remittances. The state of Kerala has used the opportunities due to the oil boom of the GCC countries in the 1970s. “The GCC countries -newly independent for some of them –began to set up an ambitious policy of economic development based on industrialization, building construction, infrastructure improvement, and services. In a context of demographic weakness, Gulf states underwent a drastic workforce shortage which could only be solved by massive

immigration” (Venier, 2008, p. 2). From the 1970s onwards to the present, Gulf remittances have been the backbone of the Kerala economy. Record decline of crude oil price in the international market, global economic recession and internal political crisis and terrorism have become a threat to GCC countries, especially in job markets. It shows a danger alarm to all Gulf migrants and their dependent population. Pravasi (Non-Resident) Malayalee Census 2013 (2013) reveals that five million Malayalees are depending on Gulf migrants for their livelihood. New statistics regarding the number of Gulf migrants have shown some drastic changes. Once, GCC countries were the hope of hopeless people. But now pattern and trends are in constant flux. So here I would like to examine the details of “Trend, Pattern, and Changes 21st century Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE. “ Understanding the complexity of international migration has always been a challenge for scholars and those interested in the issue” (Kapuria, 2017, p. 31).

Theoretical Framework of the Study

There are a number of theories discussing different aspects of the migration, but there is no one complete theory to discuss the whole process of migration. Migration is an important subject and it has been studied by Sociologists, Anthropologists, Economists, and Psychologists. Each discipline is focused on the different aspects of the migration process. Several scholars like Ernst Georg Ravenstein, Evert Lee, Samuel Andrew Stouffer, Donald Joseph Bogue, Micheal Todaro, Lewis, Sjaastad, Wolpert, Mangalam, Douglas Messay, Magobunje, Robin Cohen, Steven Vertovec and Thomas Faist have contributed to the theoretical analysis of the process of migration.

Ernst George Ravenstien was a German-English geographer who provided the first theoretical framework to explain the process of migration. He has constructed “seven laws of migration” by the publication of two papers entitled “The Law of Migration -I” in 1885 and “The Law of

Migration-II” in 1889 based on the census report of the England (Ravanstien 1885, 1889). According to Ravanstien, opportunities and distances are playing an important role in the process of migration. Migrants are moving to high opportunity destinations from low opportunity areas, and each stream of migration leads to a counter stream, especially in the context of rural to urban migration. Choosing the migration destination is highly dependent on the distance from the origin of the migrant (ibid). Migrants always prefer to migrate to the nearest place in their home town. Kerala Gulf migration is connected with the analysis of Ravanstein’s law of migration. Malayalees had chosen Gulf countries because of the high job opportunities in Gulf countries and fewer opportunities in home town. The Malayalees first migrated to neighboring states like Madras (Chennai), Bombay (Mumbai) and Kolkata (Calcutta). From there, they moved to Gulf countries for more opportunities. But, in the initial stages of Kerala Gulf migration, the distance was very long because of the absence of proper transportation streams. The introduction of modern transportation and communication reduced the distance between the UAE and Kerala. Today it takes four-hour journey to reach the UAE from any four international airports of Kerala and an average of five to ten flights are operating services from all international airports to the UAE per day. Job opportunities and reliable transportation are attracting more number of Malayalee migrants to the UAE.

The neoclassical theory of migration is one of the oldest theories to explain the process of migration. This theory explains that the causes of international migration are the geographical imbalance between demand and supply of labor. The neoclassical theory analyses the result of labor migration on economic development especially in sending countries of the labor migrants (Arango, 2000). Sending countries will have considerable human resources and receiving countries will require a large volume of labors for different purposes. In the area of migration where the supply of labor is flexible, their remuneration will be low, and they were trying to migrate to another country which provides high remuneration (Massey et al, 1993). The large

scale of remittances to the homeland from migration destinations will encourage other people to migrate. And it will lead to the economic development of the homeland. Neoclassical theory can be applied to explain the process of Kerala labor migration to the Gulf countries. Unemployment and wage differentials were the major reasons behind the Kerala Gulf migration. Still, Kerala is not free from unemployment in the skilled sector. The large volume of remittances from the Gulf to Kerala made a lot of socio-economic and educational development in Kerala society. Migrant aspirants are still attracted by the wage rate of the UAE, and migration is again happening with variations.

Another theoretical analysis of migration concentrated on “opportunities” is provided by Samuel Andrew Stouffer, an American Sociologist. He shares his theoretical view on migration with the “Theory of Intervening opportunities” in 1940. Stouffer (1940, p. 846) has rightly pointed out that “the number of persons going a given distance is directly proportional to the number of opportunities at that distance and inversely proportional to the number of intervening opportunities” He has also added that distance between the homeland and destination, population pressure at homeland did not affect migration than opportunity in host land. Malayalees are migrating to the UAE for more opportunities. In Kerala Gulf migration, the availability of opportunities in host land played a crucial role and it avoids the distance to destination and further obstacles. Stouffer’s “Intervening Opportunities” is applicable to explain the Malayalee migration to the UAE.

To understand the reason or motivation behind the migration, the “Push-Pull theory” was developed by scholars like Everett Lee (1966) and Donald Joseph Bogue (1959). It was based on different factors influencing the migration at the origin of migration and migration destination. According to Bogue (1959), there are a lot of factors that affect the process of migration, it may be negative or positive factors like lack of opportunities, unemployment, poverty, job opportunities, attractive salary, and better living conditions. These push and pull

factors will be strong or weak, but it will lead to the decision of migration. Everett Lee developed a theoretical framework on migration based on Push-Pull factors. Lee (1966) tried to explain the causes or motivation of migration by describing the factors that influence people's perception of migration as push and pull factors. Lee observed that negative factors are leading individuals from their home town and positive factors are attracting migration destinations (ibid). The circumstances of the migrants at homeland (area of origin) and host land (destination) will be governed by personal characteristics of migrants. Kerala Migration to the UAE is purely labor migration. The push factors like unemployment, lack of opportunities, low wages are causing to migrate from Kerala. The pull factors like employment opportunities, attractive salaries and infrastructure attracted Malayalee migrants to the UAE.

Another theoretical framework to explain the process of migration is "Migrant Network theory". It mainly focuses on the pattern of migration. The migrant theory has emerged in the mid of the 1970s basically in the disciplines of sociology and anthropology. Migration networks can be defined as a "set of interpersonal relations that link migrants or returned migrants with relatives, friends or fellow countrymen at home. They convey information, provide financial assistance, facilitate employment and accommodation, and give support in various forms" (Arango, 2000, p. 291). This migration network will reduce the complexities of migration, and it gives more relaxation to new migrants and its family. New migration destination will often be alien to new migrants. The migration network helps to clear strangeness in a new destination. The Migration networks decrease the risks and costs of migration and increase the expected net returns of migration (Massey et al. 1993). Network connections are working as a bridge between homeland and host land. So the number of migrants is mobilizing without the complexities of the migration process. Migration network connections are working as social capital and which opens the wide opportunities in host land (Massey et al. 1993). Malayalee migrant's networks are visible across the UAE. The majority

of migrants got a visa through the migrant's network in host land. It may be family or relatives or friends. From the first phase to the present scenario of Kerala Gulf migration, migrant's networks have been playing an important role in migrating a large volume of migrants to the UAE. "Correspondingly, positive effects from the network migration mechanism have influenced the development aspect of the sending country, while generating considerable levels of legal, political and financial obstacles on immigration-related matters in the receiving country" (Wickramasinghe and Wimalaratna, 2016, p. 24).

Network theory is closely connected with the other theoretical framework on migration called "Migration System Theory" developed by Magobunje (Kurekova, 2011). "The core assumption behind the migration system theory is that migration contributes to change the economic, social, cultural and institutional conditions in both the receiving and sending country" (Wickramasinghe and Wimalaratna, 2016, p. 24). Migration is making changes in both home land and host land at a larger scale especially labor migration. The focus of the system theory is both on macro and micro linkages of places linked to the migration process (Fawcett and Arnold, 1987). The migration system theory can analyze both the economic and social development of sending and receiving countries. Kerala Gulf migration has played an essential role in the economic development of Kerala society. The UAE is one of the leading countries in the world in all sense and the role of Malayalees is inevitable in the development of the UAE. The development of both Kerala and UAE by migration can theoretically explain with migration system theory.

Another theoretical framework to explain the process of migration is "Cumulative Causation theory" contributed by Gunnar Myrdal in 1956, and later it was developed by Douglas Massey (Wickramasinghe and Wimalaratna, 2016; Massey, 1990). This theory is trying to explain why migration flow starts and how did it continue to grow over time (Fussel and Massey, 2004). It focuses on the reason for migration and trying to find out the influencing factors that lead to

the growth of migration. Jennissen (2004) has observed that Cumulative Causation theory explains how the number of outgoing migrants increases in time to time since the first migrants give social capital to family, relatives, and others in the home land, which ultimately motivates non migrants to find the job and reduce the risk of migration in destination countries. Migrant connections with non-migrants accelerate the large volume of migration and the presence of nearest people in migration destinations encouraging non-migrants to migrate and find out a job. Cumulative Causation theory will be helpful to understand the process of the Kerala Gulf migration and its growth over time.

“Transnational approach” focuses on how the migration process forms the networks beyond the geographical boundaries. Scholars like Steven Vertovec (1999) and Thomas Faist (2008) are trying to understand how transnational migrations are creating networks and how they connect with the homeland. It also tries to understand the socio-economic and political surroundings of host land and its role in the formation of migration networks. The advancement of modern transportation and communication made strong transnational networks among the migrants with homeland. Vertovec (1999, p.2) defines “transnationalism as multiple ties and interactions linking people or institutions across the borders of nation-state”. Migration connects the people beyond the national boundaries at the same time they are keeping relations with homeland. Faist (2008, p. 2) defined transnationalism “as sustained and continuous ties and their concatenations in networks, groups, organizations, and communities across the borders of national states and with institutions on all levels always being part of such social spaces”. Faist (2006) has pointed out that modern technologies in communication, liberal state policies and cultural discrimination in host land and lovely attitudes of the homeland, etc. will create a favorable situation for the formation of transnational ties among the migrants. The transnational approach helps to understand the process of Kerala Gulf migration. The Malayalees started a transnational relation with Gulf countries through the migration and they

made a strong migration network with homeland. The strong tie with homeland led to massive Malayalee migration to Gulf countries.

It has discussed various theories of migration such as the theory of the law of movement, neo-classical theory, the theory of intervening opportunities, Push-pull theory, Network theory, Migration System theory and Cumulative Causation theory and Transnational approach to analyzing the process of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE. There is no complete single theory to describe the whole migration process. Sidney Goldstien (1976) noted that the formulation of a complete theory of migration is difficult due to the dissonances of its scope and extensive issues covered by migration. So a different theoretical framework is requiring for the analysis of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE.

Profile of the Study Area

The present study is conducted in seven emirates of the UAE. It has the largest number of Malayalee migrants. The available statistics reveal the number of Kerala Gulf migrants is more in the UAE than other GCC countries, and most numbers of the Gulf migrants are staying in the UAE (Zachariah and Rajan, 2015). Kerala Migration Survey 2014 shows that 37.4 percent of Overseas Malayalees are living in the UAE (ibid). Compared to other GCC countries, the UAE has been keeping financial stability since 2000, as the UAE especially Dubai, has been concentrated on other sectors like tourism, real estate and banking with natural gas resources since 2000. Also compared to other GCC countries, the UAE did not make stringent rules regarding the privatization of jobs to nationals as Oman and KSA did. I have to find out the more reasons behind this favoritism towards the UAE.

The UAE is the federation of seven emirates. “The UAE was established on December 2, 1971, comprising the seven emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Rasal-Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah” (Zachariah et al, 2004, p. 2228). Malayalee migrants are visible in

all seven emirates. The UAE has 9.54 million population and in which only 11.48 percent is the UAE citizens and the rest of them are foreign nationals, and India shares the most substantial portion of foreigners in the UAE with 27 percent of the total foreigners (GMI, 2019). Sex ratio is more favorable to males, and 72 percent of the UAE population is male (ibid). Eighty-six point six percent of the total population of the UAE is residing in three emirates such as Dubai (35.7 percent), Abu Dhabi (34.7 percent) and Sharjah (16.2percent) (ibid). After India, migrants from Pakistan (12.6 percent). Bangladesh (7.4 percent), Philippines (5.5 percent), Iran (4.7 percent), Egypt (4.2 percent). Nepal (three percent) and Sri Lanka (three percent) are working in the UAE (ibid).

Importance of the Study

Many studies have conducted on Kerala Gulf migration by scholars and government agencies on the different aspects of the migration. Significant studies focus on Gulf remittances and how Gulf remittances influence the Kerala economy etc. The studies conducted in host land on the socio-cultural and political situation of the migrants are scarce. The importance of the present study is that it focuses on only one country of the Gulf that receives a large number of Malayalee migrants. It tries to make a detailed analysis of the trends, patterns of Malayalee migration to the UAE. It also discusses the socio-economic and cultural situation of the Malayalee migrants in the UAE.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are:

- To analyse the historical background of Malayalee migration to the Gulf countries.
- To evaluate the socio-economic, political and cultural factors of Kerala Gulf migrants to the UAE.

- To evaluate the Government policies for the welfare of Gulf migrants.

Statement of Research Problem

The Malayalee Gulf migrants refer to the people of Kerala working in the Middle East Arab states of the Persian Gulf (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman). The vast oil resources were discovered in the Arabian Peninsula in the 1930s, and commercial extraction of oil began in the early 1950s. Over time, these countries became the major oil-exporting countries in the world. It cherished their economy quickly. But Arab countries faced some problems like a small number of population and lack of skilled labors. Thus, they opened their door to the world to solve the problems of shortage of both skilled and unskilled workers. Countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were suffering from the problem of unemployment, and poverty. These countries considered Gulf migration as a great opportunity that led to large scale migration. Kerala played a crucial role in supplying the migrant labors to Gulf countries. Historical ties of Arabs with Kerala helped Malayalees to make a bond with Gulf countries. The primary reasons behind the Malayalee Gulf migration were unemployment and poverty in home town. Gulf migration became more common in the period of 1970s and 1980s. Gulf migrants contribute significantly to the state economy. The influence of Gulf money played an essential change in Kerala society. I would like to analyze the trends, patterns, and variations of professional migration to the UAE in the present study.

The Important of the present study is that it is conducted in the host land among the Malayalee Gulf migrants and it will help to understand the socio-economic and cultural and political situation of the migrants in the host land. Another importance of the present study is that Gulf remittances are playing an economic backbone of Kerala society and Kerala Gulf migration

reduced the unemployment rate at a large scale. So it is essential to observe the trends, patterns, and changes of Kerala Gulf migration, especially to the UAE.

Methodology and Sources of Data

The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods and relied on both primary and secondary data. For secondary data, I mainly depended on survey and census reports of the government and non-government agencies, articles, journals, books, internet and newspaper. For primary data, I have collected through the help of an interview schedule and also by sending questionnaires through snowball and stratified sampling methods among the Gulf migrants. I have visited the UAE between 11th December 2017 and 31st December 2017 for collecting the primary data. The main intention behind the fieldwork was to collect firsthand information from Malayalee migrants from seven emirates (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Umm Al Quwain). The in-depth interview was used also for the office bearers of the Malayalee cultural association in the UAE. Some respondents were busy with their works when I met them personally. So I collected their WhatsApp contact number and email id and sent the structured questionnaire to them. Overall I have sent questionnaires through WhatsApp, Facebook and Gmail to around 1250 respondents out of which 212 respondents replied. I have collected online contact of the respondents through friends, relatives, and Malayalee associations, especially from Kerala Muslim Cultural Association. I have conducted an in-depth interview with 11 respondents, they were the office bearers of Malayalee associations and informal interviews with 87 respondents in the UAE. All total I got information from 310 respondents from various emirates of the UAE. From 310 respondents, 259 respondents are male (86 percent), and 51 respondents (14 percent) are female. There is a considerable difference between the number of female and male migrants because Kerala Gulf migration is the male-dominated phenomenon and the notion of gender is working. Important

questions were asked during the interview was that migrants' socio-economic and geographical and educational background, present circumstances of the UAE, the reason behind Gulf migration, rules and regulation of the homeland and precaution for return migration, etc. One of the limitations of the fieldwork is that more than 90 percent of respondents were available only on Friday and most of them using their leave for washing cloth and the rest of the time for sleeping. But within limitation, they have cooperated with research. WhatsApp is now a more powerful social media among the Malayalee migrants, and they have the number of WhatsApp groups with a different title as Gulf migrants. Now one WhatsApp group can accommodate 256 members. Previously, it was only 100 members. Malayalee migrant's WhatsApp groups helped to send a large number of the questionnaire to the respondent.

Background of the Data Collection (Table 1.3)

Method of Data collection	Number of Samples Approached	Number of Samples Responded	Percent of Responded Sample	Percent of not Responded Sample	Total Percent
Online Questionnaire	1250	212	17%	83%	100%
Informal Interview	87	87	100%	Nil	100%
In-depth interview	11	11	100%	Nil	100%
Total	1348	310	23%	77%	100%

A lot of Malayalee associations are working across the UAE based on religion and politics. Kerala Muslim Cultural Center (KMCC) is more popular among these cultural organizations across the UAE. I have met 11 office bearers of the Dubai KMCC and have an in-depth interview with them, depending on their availability.

Limitations of the Study

Lack of participation of the female respondents in the present study is one of the main limitations. Because the percent of women migrants from Kerala is very less and it represents seven percent of the total migrants of Kerala. The long duration of fieldwork is essential to the present study which could not fulfill in the UAE because of high expenses and legal issues.

Another limitation was the direct interview with respondents are only possible in off days mainly on Friday. Respondents were busy with washing and taking rest on Friday. So often the interview has reduced to 10 minutes. Apart from Friday, other days were working day and difficult to meet the respondents. So I could not conduct in-depth interviews with labor migrants. Data contradictions on the numbers of migrants from different studies at the same time made confusions and it was another limitation of the present research. I got respondents from all districts of Kerala except Idukki district. The proportion of Malayalee migrants from Idukki in the UAE is very less, and Kerala Malayalee Census 2013 identified Edamalakkudy Panchayath is an only one panchayath in Kerala without a migrant.

Chapterisation

The present study has five chapters including introduction and conclusion. The first chapter serving as the introductory one explains the scope and relevance of the study and discusses the background of the study, theoretical framework, methodology, objectives and other significance of the study besides limitation. The second chapter titled “Kerala Gulf Migration: Historical and Contemporary Context” briefly examines the socio-historical background of Kerala Gulf migration in particular and Kerala migration in general of its causes and different stages. It systematically analyses Kerala Gulf migration to six GCC countries from 1980 to 2018 based on available statistics. “Trends, Patterns, and Changes of Kerala Gulf Migration to the UAE” is the focus of the third chapter. It talks about the trends and patterns of Malayalee

migration by the analysis of the different aspects of migration. It discusses the background of the migrants, remittances, its consumptions and consequences in home town. It analyzes the status of the present job, future of migration and migration networks in the UAE. It also discusses why the UAE has become the favorite destination of Malayalee and the pattern of Malayalee migration to the UAE. Further, it discusses the government's initiations towards Malayalee Gulf migrants. It tries to talk about Gulf remittances and its consumption pattern also. Besides, it also focuses on the return migration and their resettling in home town. The role of Malayalee migrants in the welfare activities of the home town is also discussed. Chapter four titled "Social Life of the Kerala Migrants in the UAE" mainly talks about the socio, economic, political and cultural situation of the Kerala Gulf migrants in the UAE by analyzing their relation with natives and foreigners. It also discusses the rules and regulations of the UAE and its implementation and punishment. Then it explains the participation of Malayalees in the cultural and welfare activities of the host land. Then it deals with the connection of Malayalee migrants with the Malayam media and social media and how it influences Malayalee migrants in the UAE. This chapter also talks about the Kerala women migrants in the UAE and their socio-cultural status in both homeland and host land. Chapter five is "Summary and Conclusion". It summarizes the findings and observations of the present study and paves the pathway for future researchers.

Kerala Gulf Migration: Historical and Contemporary Context

Introduction

Kerala migrants are noted across the world. Malayalees are visible in all parts of the world and you will find a tea shop on the moon, if you land on the moon (George and Thomas, 2013). Kerala Gulf migrations, its socio-political and economic impacts, are not new in academic research. Different scholars have conducted studies on Kerala Gulf migration with different perspectives and different theoretical frameworks. Compared to other Gulf migration affected states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, several studies have already done in Kerala regarding the Kerala migration, development, and rehabilitation. Kerala is not only a place of sending a large volume of migrants to different parts of the world and within India but also a lot of people from different parts of the country and different parts of the world immigrated to Kerala. As Joseph (1988) rightly points out that Kerala has been a favorite place of immigrants for centuries and different ethnic groups have migrated and settled in Kerala over time. Kerala has not been free from unemployment, underemployment, and seasonal unemployment. Kerala Gulf migration reduced the problem of unemployment at a high level especially in the case of semi-skilled and unskilled Malayalees. Historically Kerala was an agricultural society, and the main livelihood was cultivation. Kerala has been maintaining a trade connection with different countries. However, Kerala was not familiar with the process of migration until the 20th century. Cultural and trade connection of Kerala with GCC countries have continued for several centuries, but it is during the first half of the 20th century that a strong migration relationship formed in Kuwait, Bahrain and KSA consecutively to the oil drilling of the 1930s and late 1940s (Zachariah et al. 2003). It is essential to analyze the historical background of Kerala migration before the in-depth description of Kerala Gulf migration.

Historical Background of Kerala Migration

Malayalees are considered a highly mobile section of people and the international migration from Kerala is a recent process (Joseph, 2001). The present state of Kerala came to exist on first November 1956. Before the formation of the present state of Kerala, it consisted of three regions such as Malabar, Cochin, and Travancore. Travancore was the biggest and self-governing princely states in the southern part of Kerala and Cochin was the smallest and self-governing princely states situated in the middle part of Kerala and both princely states were under the British rule from the last decades of 18th century. Malabar in the northern part was directly under the British administration of the Madras Presidency (Joseph, 1988). The people from these regions had almost a similar way of life and geographical aspects. Agriculture was the main source of income, and other trade and industry had not that much improved. The cultivation was under the landlords and they exploited farmers as much they can. As Joseph (1988) pointed out that farmers of the Malabar area had to pay two-thirds of their agricultural products to the landlord and the British government. The situation of the rest of the two regions is not different from Malabar. Cultivation was the main livelihood of ordinary Malayalees. But it led to more misery and poverty because of the exploitation of landlords and the British government. So, an alternative option for livelihood was inevitable to Malayalees especially for the middle class and lower class to exist on earth.

Britain banned slavery in its colonies due to the different protests and agitations in 1833. Colonies experienced the scarcity of workers due to the prohibition of slavery and colonies complained to the British about the scarcity of labors in plantations (Musthafa, 2018). Prohibition of slavery led to the introduction of the “Indenture Labor system” by the British government in 1834. Joseph (1988) observed that the introduction of indentured labor to the plantations of British colonies due to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire resulted in the emergence of large-scale migration in the first half of the 19th century. The people from

different parts of the country considered it an opportunity and migrated to different colonies of the British Empire and Malayalees were no exception. When the recruitment of Indian laborers started from the different parts of the country from the middle of the 19th century, recruiting centers were open in Palaghat and Tirur in Malabar district (Madras Government Press, 1917). But the number of labors recruited from Kerala was very less compared to other parts of India especially from north India. The reports and census data did not mention the large scale of migration from any part of Kerala till the dawn of 20th century except the migration of 207 people to Ceylon, 64 people to Burma and 22 people to Mauritius from Malabar (Government of Madras Presidency, 1901)

The 20th century marked a landmark in the history of Kerala migration. The migration from all the parts of Kerala (Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar) noticed on a larger scale from the 1930s (Joseph 1988). Major destination of the Malayalee migration was Malaya, Burma, and Sri Lanka. For instance, total Malayalee migrants in Malaya in 1921 was 17,314 and it reached to 34,000 in 1931, the period between 1921 and 1931 witnessed 100 percent growth in the number of Malayalee (Sinnappa, 1970). Compare to Malaya, the number of Malayalees in Burma was less, and it was 12, 646 in 1931. They were mainly from the Malabar region (Chakravarthi, 1971). Malayalee migration to Sri Lanka was very less, and the actual number of Malayalee migrants were not available. KV Joseph (1988) has observed that Malayalee had chosen East Africa and the Caribbean Islands for migration in the first three decades of the 20th century. But it was not a significant phenomenon, and the number of migrants is not recorded. The 1930's "worldwide economic depression" and 1939's "Second World War" made a stop to the overflow of the migration from India and witnesses the return migration of Indians from different countries. Many countries like Sri Lanka and Burma got independence from the British and then the new government of Burma and Sri Lanka did not grant citizenship to foreign workers. The majority of these foreign workers were Indians in Burma and Sri

Lanka. Sekher (1997) pointed out that, till 1931, Kerala had enough cultivable land for farming and the unemployment rate among Malayalees was not severe. After that Kerala witnessed a large scale of migration to different parts of India and abroad to seek employment opportunities. The primary destinations of Malayalee migrants within the country were mostly the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and the metropolitan cities of Bombay (Mumbai), Madras (Chennai), Delhi and Calcutta (Kolkata) (ibid). Educated and skilled Malayalees required in different parts of the country in various fields as clerks, teachers, nurses, and mechanics, etc and Malayalee used this opportunity very well.

The pattern of migration in the 19th century from Kerala was the migration of farmers and unskilled labors. This pattern changed to the new pattern of migration of educated and skilled Malayalees to the USA and other western countries in the first half of the 20th century and this process is known as “brain drain” by scholars and policymakers. The migration of highly qualified and skilled people from India to abroad is generally called brain drain. After independence, an entirely different pattern of migration from Kerala has been witnessed in two phases. The first phase of migration was mainly to the industrialized nations and the second phase was to the Middle East. The first phase of migrants was well educated with technical and professional expertise like doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers, technicians and nurses, and their migration destinations were the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and Western Europe (Sekher 1997). The large scale of migration was not possible to the USA and other western countries because of the quota restriction and migration procedures of the host countries. The second phase of Kerala migration was in the 1970s and in which a large scale semiskilled and unskilled people migrated to Gulf countries and it was a massive migration never seen in the past. The 1970s witnessed the massive scale of Malayalee migration to GCC countries. The major destinations were six GCC countries namely Bahrain, KSA, Kuwait, Qatar, Sultanate of Oman and the UAE. Hike of the crude oil prices in the last quarter of the 20th century led to a large

scale of infrastructural development, and it required a large number of semi-skilled and unskilled foreign labors in the Middle East. They did not have required workforce and it paved a way to the new dawn of migration from Kerala

Kerala Gulf Migration

Kerala has a long history of trade relations with Gulf countries. Arab traders were usual visitors of Kerala to purchase raw materials, and it was trendy in foreign markets. Zachariah and Rajan (2012) observed that India's cultural and commercial relations with the Gulf countries are older than those with most other parts of the countries in the world. Malayalee migration to Gulf countries has passed through three phases. The first phase was from 1930 to 1950, and the second phase started from 1970 to 1990 and the third phase starts from 2000 to the present. In the first phase of Kerala Gulf migration, the majority of Malayalee migrants were unskilled and illegal migrants. The first phase migrants passed through a horrible experience to reach the destination. The migration of Indian workers to the Gulf countries started in the 1930s because some of the Persian Gulf states were under British Protectorate (Sekher, 1997). The oil boom of the Gulf countries had marked in two phases; the first phase was in the 1940s and the second phase in the 1970s. With the establishment of Bahrain Petroleum Company in the 1930s and Kuwait Oil Company in 1946 accelerated the migration of Indians to the Middle East in different skilled, semiskilled and unskilled posts (Zachariah and Rajan, 2012; Sekher, 1997). Bahrain started oil export in the third decade of the 20th century. Bahrain was the first state in the Middle East to discover oil in 1931, and it created a new industry that required the number of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled laborers (Andrew, 2010). A rough estimate shows that the number of Malayalee labors in Kuwait was around 500 to 600 in 1948 and it rose to about three lakhs by 1972 (Zachariah and Rajan 2012). In the late 1940s, a small number of Indians including Malayalee labors worked in the Arabian- American Oil Company in KSA and reported that one half of the total number of Gulf migrants from Kerala are in KSA (Kondapi,

1951). India had a strong cultural and trade tie with Oman and Indian business and banking communities were visible in Oman in the 19th century, and they were mainly from the north-western part of India (Nair, 1986). The approximate number of Malayalee migrants in Oman, especially the capital city of Muscat was 20,000 in 1974, and it reaches to around one lakh in 1998 (Government of Kerala ,1999). It was discussed that the first stage of Malayalee migration was to neighbor states mainly Chennai, Mumbai, and Calcutta. The majority of the first-generation Malayalee migrants migrated to the Middle East from Bombay in the first half of the 20th century. The Malayalee migrants who migrated to Gulf countries in the late 1940s and 1950s did not proceed from Kerala and first, they migrated to Bombay, from there they moved to Gulf countries (ibid). There was no direct transport system from Kerala to Gulf countries in the first half of the 20th century. The direct transport system from Kerala to Gulf countries started only in the last decades of the 20th century. Britain established a recruitment office in Bombay to recruiting labors to work in oil companies of the Gulf countries in 1930 (UN, 2003).

Malayalee migrants migrated to Bombay for employment in the first half of the 20th century. Several illegal travel agencies were working in Bombay to recruit labors from India to Gulf countries. Many Malayalee Gulf aspirants are trapped by the fake travel agencies for getting the visa. The first half of the 20th century witnessed the development of Gulf countries by the discovery of oil resources except the UAE. The UAE did not discover the oil resources until the first half of the 20th century. So the number of migrants in the UAE was comparatively less than other Gulf countries in the first half of the 20th century.

Illegal migrant agents were very active to bring people to Gulf countries without any document by ships or other means of transportation. They were charging more money from migrants without any guarantee to reach destinations. Often migrants didn't know that they were illegal migrants and its punishments. For example, Malayalee illegal migrants arrived at the seashore of the "Khor Fakkan". A city approached sea at Sharjah in the UAE in the first half of the 20th

century by illegal ship from Bombay (Mumbai) without proper documents. The ship could not enter the seashore because they didn't have the required documents to enter. So, these illegal migrants had to jump in the sea before the fixed distance of the seaside and they had to swim to the seashore by escaping from police attention. It would have been a dangerous and challenging task for first phase migrants who didn't have any documents. The first phase of the Malayalee migration to Gulf countries was a difficult task. They had sacrificed that much to reach the destination with new hopes.

The second phase of Malayalee migration started in the 1970s due to the crude price hike in the international market. Considerable revenue from oil-exporting led to Gulf countries' infrastructural development. It required a large number of semi-skilled and unskilled workforce. The Gulf Countries became immensely wealthy due to oil and infrastructure like ports, roads and airports and became the symbols of their newly discovered oil (Zachariah and Rajan, 2012). The first phase of migrants worked as a bridge between Kerala and Gulf countries to recruit a large number of Malayalee migrants to Gulf countries. It was a massive migration in the history of Kerala migration. Eighty-eight point five percent of the total Kerala migrants were in six Gulf countries in the 1980s, and it reached to 91.5 percent in 1987 (Government of Kerala, 1980, 1988). The majority of the Malayalee migrants were semi-skilled and unskilled labors in the second phase of Kerala migration. The second phase of Malayalee migration ends with the uncertainty because of the Gulf war of 1990. The life of the Gulf countries especially in Kuwait had changed by the invasion of Iraq to Kuwait in 1990 (Zachariah and Rajan 2012). Thousands of Indians including Malayalees also left Kuwait because of the Gulf war (Iraq invasion to Kuwait). In the last decade of the 20th century, Gulf countries started to depend on other sources of laborers from Sri Lanka, Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh than the traditional Indian sources and it affected Indian labors negatively. There was a diminishing rate of crude oil in the international market after the Gulf War, and it affects the economy of Gulf

countries negatively. The third phase of Malayalee migration started in 2000 onwards. It was a bit different from past trends. Mainly migrants were skilled and semi-skilled such as managers, accountants, teachers, drivers, and business entrepreneurs, etc. The third phase is not entirely free from unskilled labors. But the percent of unskilled labor is less when compared with the first and second phases of Malayalee Gulf migration.

Malayalee Migration to the UAE

The UAE is the favorite destination of Malayalee migration in the 21st century. The first phase of Malayalee labor migration to the UAE was minimal because of the lack of oil export. The UAE started oil-exporting only in the second half of the 20th century. But a large number of Malayalees have been migrating to the UAE from 1970 onwards. The infrastructural development of the UAE was a quick process. Dubai treated as one of the business hubs and many new projects reached to the UAE in the last decades of the 20th century. It made a lot of job opportunities in the UAE for skilled, semiskilled and unskilled labors. Job opportunities, attractive salary, and family networks led to a large number of Malayalee migration to the UAE. In 1998, 31 percent of Malayalee migrants were working in the UAE and it reached 39.1 percent in 2018 (Zachariah and Rajan, 2019). Since 2003 onwards, the UAE has been leading with a large number of Malayalee migrants. The following part is analyzing the number of Malayalee migrants in GCC countries with the data of previous study and year base. It will be helpful to understand the trend of Kerala Gulf migration especially Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE.

Kerala Gulf Migration from 1980 to 2018

Gulf countries have been the most favorite destination of Malayalee migrants since the second half of the 20th century. It has noted that Malayalee Gulf migration started since the 1930s but it became more popular in the 1970s. The first information regarding the number of Kerala

international migration came out in 1980 with the report on the Housing and Employment survey by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala. It was revealed that Kerala has 2.1 lakhs overseas population in which 1.86 lakhs were in Gulf countries. It was 89 percent of the Kerala overseas population. Zachariah and Rajan (2012) pointed out that there have been several studies on Malayalee migration from Kerala to the Gulf countries. Some studies are based on representative samples for the whole state of Kerala and other studies are based on the selected centers of migration, some conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics and rest by individual researchers. Regarding studies on the Kerala international migration, 11 significant studies were conducted in which four studies are held by the Department of Economics and Statics, Government of Kerala respectively in 1980 survey on “Housing and Employment” and “Utilization of Gulf Remittances in Kerala” in 1987 and “Pravasi Malayalee Census” with sixth finance commission survey in 2013. The remaining seven studies were the effort of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum with the financial support of various government agencies in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2016 respectively. Seventh Kerala migration survey was held in 2018 and published its result in 2019 by CDS. These eleven studies are the major secondary sources of data to conduct a study about Kerala Gulf migration and a lot of individual studies were also conducted on Malayalee Gulf migration. The above studies are helpful in providing a platform to evaluate the trends, patterns and changes of Kerala Gulf migration from historical to the present context besides predicting the future.

Number of Kerala Migrants to Gulf Countries and Other Foreign Countries, 1980 (Table 2.1)

Destinations	1980 (Year)	Percent (%)
Gulf Countries	1.86 Lakhs	88.5%
Other foreign countries	.24 lakhs	11.5%
Total	2.1 lakhs	100%

Source; Report of the housing and Employment Survey. Department of Economics and Statistics Government of Kerala, 1980

Table 2.1 was the first official statistics of the Government of Kerala on Malayalee migration conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics as part of the Housing and Employment Survey. It shows that Kerala has 2.1 lakhs international migrants, of which 88.5 percent (1.86 lakhs) are in GCC countries. This period was the most remarkable time regarding the boom of Malayalee Gulf migration. It marked a new dawn of Kerala migration. Malayalees were waiting for an opportunity to overcome the problem of unemployment and poverty back home. The proportion of Malayalee migrants in non-Gulf countries were less (19 percent) because non-GCC countries were not suitable destination of semi-skilled and unskilled migrants,

Number of Kerala Migrants to Gulf Countries, Other Foreign Countries, 1987 & 1993 (Table 2.2)

Destinations	1987 (Year)	Percent (%)	1993 (Year)	Percent
Gulf Countries	3,00,929	92 %	6,41,387	96 %
Other foreign countries	28,727	9%	24, 480	4 %
Total	329,656	100%	6, 68, 867	100 %

(Source: Report on the Utilisation of Gulf Remittances in Kerala. Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, 1988. Reports on migration survey. Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala. 1994).

Table 2.2 shows the study conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala regarding remittances and migration in 1987. It was the second official study held in Kerala related to migration and remittances. This data clearly shows that the number of Malayalee migrants was increasing to Gulf countries in 1987. Ninety-two percent (300, 929) of Malayalee migrants were working in GCC countries and it was 85.5 percent in 1980. It was the developing period of Kerala Gulf migration. The majority of migrants were semi-skilled and unskilled. Most of the Malayalee Gulf migrants were working in the construction sector and blue-collar jobs. Table (2.2) shows the data from the report on a migration survey conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of

Kerala in the period of 1992-1993. The report shows that Kerala has 95.8 percent (641,387) Malayalee Gulf migrants out of total Malayalee migrants in 1993. The number of Malayalee Gulf migrants marked 0.3 million in 1987 and increased to 0.6 million within five years. Rapid growth of Malayalee migration to Gulf countries was witnessed in this period. The last decades of the 20th century marked a large-scale Malayalee migration to Gulf countries.

Number of Kerala international migrants from 1998 to 2018 (Table 2.3)

Year		UAE	KSA	Oman	Kuwait	Bahrain	Qatar	Total in Gulf countries	Other countries	Total
1998	Number of migrants	4,21,959	5,10,895	1,39,571	68,613	74,654	62,969	12,78,211	83,744	13,61,955
	Percent	31%	37%	10.2%	5%	5.5%	4.6%	93.8 %	6.2%	100%
2003	Number of migrants	6,70,150	4,89,988	1,52,865	1,13,967	1,08,507	98,953	16,34,430	2,04,048	18,38,478
	Percent	36.5%	26.7 %	8.3 %	6.2%	5.9%	4.6%	88.9%	11.1%	100%
2008	Number of migrants	9,18,122	5,03,433	1,67,628	1,29,282	1,01,344	1,21,613	19,41,422	2,51,993	21,93,415
	Percent	41.9%	23%	7.6%	5.9%	4.6%	5.5%	88.5%	11.5 %	100%
2011	Number of migrants	8,83,313	5,74,739	1,95,300	1,27,782	1,01,556	1,48,428	20,31,117	2,49,426	22,80,543
	Percent	38.7%	25.2%	8.6%	5.6%	4.5%	6.5%	89%	11%	100%
2013	Number of migrants	5,73,289	4,50,229	99,971	1,06,133	70,298	1,25,503	14,25,423	2,00,230	16,25,653
	Percent	35%	28%	6%	7%	4%	8%	88%	12%	100%
2014	Number of migrants	8,98,962	5,22,282	1,89,224	1,83,329	1,49,729	1,06,107	20,49,633	2,00,230	24,00,375
	Percent	37.5%	21.8%	7.9%	7.6%	6.2%	4.4%	85.3%	17.3%	100%

2016	Number of migrants	9,42,766	5,11,138	1,72,651	1,24,945	86,326	1,90,825	20,28,651	2,43,074	22,71,725
	Percent	41.5 %	22.4 %	7.5 %	5.5%	3.8 %	8.4%	89.1 %	10.6 %	100 %
2018	Number of migrants	8,30,254	4,87,484	1,82,168	1,27,120	81,153	1,85,573	18,93,752	2,28,135	21,21,887
	Percent	39.1 %	29.9 %	8.5 %	5.9 %	3.8 %	8.7 %	89.2 %	10.7 %	100 %

Source: Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013, Department of Economics and Statistics, Govt of Kerala. Kerala Migration Survey 2014, 2018 CDS, Thiruvananthapuram

Details report on Kerala Gulf migration came out with a study conducted by CDS in 1998 on Kerala's overseas population. This study revealed (table 2.3) that 94 percent of Malayalee migrants migrated to GCC countries, in which 68 percent of Malayalee migrants are in KSA and UAE. Oman has 10.2 percent of Malayalee migrants and Kuwait shares five percent of total Malayalee migrants in 1998. Beyond GCC countries, the number of Malayalee migrants was only 6.2 percent in 1998. The period between 1970 and 1998 was a crucial period of Malayalee Gulf migration. 1970s oil boom of the Middle East opened a new door to Malayalees and they took it as an opportunity and utilized it to the maximum level by chain migration. But the 1990s Gulf war shadowed on Gulf dreams of every Malayalee and Malayalee migrants were compelled to come back from Kuwait. But after the Gulf war, Malayalees restarted migration to Gulf countries. Gulf war led to a decrease in the number of Malayalee migrants in Kuwait, and only five percent Malayalees were noted at Kuwait in 1998 and majority Malayalee migrants preferred to migrate to KSA (37 percent) and UAE (31 percent). The period between 1970 s and 1998s marked the peak time of Malayalee Gulf migration. The process of chain migration played a vital role in this process. In 1993, percent of Malayalee Gulf migrants were 95 .8 of the total Malayalee migration. But after five years in 1998, the growth rate Malayalee Gulf migrants decreased to 93.8 percent and noted a two percent reduction in the growth rate of Malayalee Gulf migration. But the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants are increased when compared to 1993. It shows the trend of Kerala overseas

movement entirely concentrated on Gulf countries and chain migration as pattern played a crucial role in the increasing number of Kerala Gulf migrants.

From 1998 to 2003, the gap of five years noticed some indications in trend and pattern of Kerala Gulf migration. The table (2.3) shows that the total number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in 2003 was 88.9 percent of total Malayalee migrants. It was 93.8 percent in 1998. This five-year marked 4.9 percent reduction of Malayalee Gulf migrants when compared to total Malayalee international migrants. Between 1970 and 2003, it marked a decreasing rate in the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants for the first time. It shows that migrants started to choose other destinations beyond GCC countries. And another important thing is that KSA was the major destination of Malayalee migrants till 1998. The new trend gave way to the UAE instead of KSA at the beginning of the 21st century. The Malayalee migrants in the UAE increased to 36.5 percent with a growth rate of five percent in 2003 and their share in KSA decreased to 26.7 percent and noticed a 10.3 percent reduction respective to 1998. The availability of new job opportunities and attractive salary packages in the UAE played an important role in the changing trend of Malayalee migrants from KSA to the UAE. GCC countries are highly dependent on the price of crude oil as their economic backbone. But the beginning of the 21st century, the UAE, especially Dubai diverted their economy to real estate, finance and tourism with keeping crude oil also. It brought a lot of job opportunities in the UAE. The percent of Malayalee migrants in Oman also indicated the decreasing trend from 10.2 percent to 8.3 percent (1.1 percent reduction noted from 1998 to 2003), and Malayalee migrants in the Kuwait suddenly increased to 6.2 percent from five percent of 1998, as it was the period of the Kuwait to recover the shadows of Gulf war of the 1990s. Bahrain and Qatar did not have many changes in the number of Malayalee migrants between 1998 and 2003. In short, compared to the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in 1998, 27 percent of growth rare noted in 2003, but it was less compared to the number of Malayalee Gulf migrant's growth rates between 1987 and 1998.

The period between the 1980 and 2000 was clearly showing the influence of Malayalee Gulf migration in all sphere of Kerala society. Especially Gulf remittances started to play an essential role in Kerala society.

The result (Table 2.3) of the third study of the CDS on Kerala Migration in 2008 shows that there is not much difference in the number of Gulf migrants in 2008 compared to 2003 statistics but 0.4 percent reduction was noted in the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in the total number of Malayalee migrants. Malayalee migration to other countries except for GCC countries had increased to 11.5 percent and it was 10.1 percent in 2003. In 2008, 11 percent of reduction was observed in the growth rate of Malayalee Gulf migrants. The critical point noted at the time of the global economic recession was that most of the western developed countries had tasted the difficulties of economic stagnation. GCC countries were not free from the economic downturn and the decline of crude oil prices in the international market became another threat to GCC countries. But they did not take many actions like the reduction of employees, but they suddenly stopped the new constructions and big projects. It negatively affected temporary workers and their dependents. A significant trend happened in this period that the UAE continued as a favorite destination of Kerala Gulf migrants with 41.9 percent of total Kerala overseas population.

Compared to 2003, there was a growth of 5.4 percent of Gulf migrants in 2008. The number of Malayalee migrants in KSA reduced to 23 percent of the total Kerala migrant population, and it was 26.7 percent in 2003, and a 3.7 percent reduction was noted. Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain also noticed the decrease of Malayalee migrants in 2008. But Qatar had the growth of Malayalee migrants with 5.5 percent and it was 4.6 percent in 2003. The trend and pattern of Gulf migration have been changing by the influence of the different factors such as the availability of job opportunities and attractive salary packages. The notable point of this period

is that it is the first time from 1987 to 2008, the reduction of the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants happened with 0.4 percent of total Kerala migration.

The table (2.3) shows the details of the Kerala migration survey in 2011 conducted by CDS, Trivandrum. Compared to 2003 and 2008 statistics, the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants has increased to 89 percent of the total number of Malayalee migrants. It was 88.9 percent in 2003 and 88.5 percent in 2008. But the growth rate of Kerala Gulf migrants reduced to 4.6 percent compared to the growth rate of 2008. The notable point is that the share of Malayalee migrants in the UAE decreased to 38.7 percent from 41.9 percent of 2008 (3. 2 percent reduction marked). After 1998, it was the first time the number of Gulf migrants decreased in the UAE

At the same time, KSA has increased the share of Malayalee migrants to 25.2 percent with 1.8 percent of growth. It was 23 percent in 2008. From 2003 onwards, the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in KSA has decreased, but 2011 reports show the improvement in the number of Malayalee migrants in KSA with 3.2 percent growth. Oman also noted some increase in the number of Malayalee migrants with 8.6 percent and it was 7.6 percent in 2008. One percent growth was indicated in the case of Malayalee migrants in the Oman. Kuwait and Bahrain have marked a reduction in the number of Malayalee migrants and Qatar marked an increase in the number of Malayalee migrants. The number of Malayalee migrants in the Qatar was 5.5 percent in 2008 and increased to six 6.5 percent in 2011 with the growth of one percent. This period, the researcher could not examine significant changes in the total number of Kerala Gulf migrants.

Table 2.3 shows the result of the Pravasi Malayalee Census conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics and NORKA Roots, Government of Kerala in 2013. It was the fourth attempt of the government of Kerala to conduct a study on Kerala overseas migration. But there

were contradictions in the number of total migrants compared to the previous studies. Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013 revealed that Kerala has 1.6 million (16,25,653) overseas migrants in which 1.4 million (14,254,23) migrants are in GCC countries and 0.2 million (2,00,230) migrants belong to other countries. When compared this data with previous studies of Kerala migration conducted by the CDS in 2011, a considerable difference was noted in the number of Malayalee migrants. As two studies happened in two year and studies of the CDS in 2011 shows that Kerala had 2.2 million (2,280,54) overseas Malayalee migrants in which 2.03 million (2,031,117) overseas migrants are in GCC countries. The problem is that the period between 2011 and 2013 did not have any circumstances to reduce a large number of Malayalee Gulf migrants. It is difficult to identify which study is correct. Pravasi Malayalee Census shows that the UAE is leading with 35 percent of Malayalee migrants in 2013 and 28 percent of Malayalee migrants are working in KSA. The proportion of migrants in GCC countries is similar to the study of 2011 and but numbers are largely different.

Table (2.3) shows the result of the study on Kerala migration conducted by the CDS in 2014 and published in 2015. It reveals that Kerala has 2.4 million (2,400,37) international migrants and in which 85.33 percent of Malayalee migrants are in GCC countries (20,49,633). The important thing is that Kerala Migration Survey 2014 happened just after one year of the Pravasi Malayalee Census conducted by the Department of Economics and statistics and NORKA Roots. As above mentioned, some major contradictions are noted in the number of migrants when we compare these two studies. This major contradiction is seriously observed by KC Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan, master brains behind series of Kerala Migration Survey from 1998 to 2018. Zachariah and Rajan (2015, p.7) have pointed out that

“there are not many other sources of data on emigrants from Kerala to compare KMS estimate for its accuracy. One possible source is NORKA’s Pravasi Malayalee Census (PMC) of 2013. KMS estimate of 24 lakh of emigrants for 2014 is significantly higher (by 47 percent) than the

corresponding NORKA estimate of 16.3 lakhs for 2013(Pravasi Malayalee Census or PMC 2013). How can these data discrepancies be explained? Which of these is closer to reality? An understanding of research methodologies, sample size and sampling strategies employed may further our understanding in this regard”.

When compared to 2011, Kerala Migration Survey, a 3.7 percent reduction is noted in the number of Gulf migrants in 2014. The proportion of Malayalee migrants in KSA has reduced to 21.8 percent in 2014 from 25.2 percent in 2011 which means 3.4 percent reduction is marked within three years. It was a tough period of Malayalee migrants in the UAE due to the economic recession and the decline of crude oil prices. The UAE had 38.7 percent of Kerala migrants in 2011, but it has reduced to 37.5 percent and 1.2 percent reduction marked in 2014. KSA has a 3.2 percent reduction in 2014 when compared to 2011.

Kerala Migration Survey 2016 (Table 2.3) revealed that Kerala has 89.1 percent (20,28,651) of Gulf migrants in total Malayalee migration. The UAE is leading with 41.5 percent of Malayalee migrants and KSA has 22.4 percent of Malayalee migrants in 2016. Compared to 2014, the reduction of one percent (20,982) noted in the total number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in 2016. Kerala Migration Survey 2018 is the latest study of the CDS published in 2019. It (table 2.3) shows that Kerala has 2.12 million (21,21,887), Malayalee migrants, across the world and in which 89.2 percent (18,93,752) Malayalee migrants are in GCC countries. When compared to 2016, 6.6 percent (1,34,899) reduction noted in the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in 2018. It is the first time noted the reduction of a large number of the Malayalee Gulf migrants since the origin of Gulf migration. Reductions are noted in the number of Malayalee migrants in all GCC countries. And Share of Malayalee migrants in the UAE reduced to 39.1 percent and it was 41.5 percent in 2016. Global economic recession and lack of job opportunities may cause to decrease the number of Malayalee migrants to GCC countries.

Increasing the unemployment rate among the locals is one of the major problems in KSA. So, they start some remedial measures to give jobs to locals by reducing the numbers of foreign laborers in the country. KSA started to implement the localization policies in the job market and many foreigners lost their job due to the localization policy. Only Kuwait has small growth with two percent when compared to 2011. After 2003, it was for the first time, the Kuwait noted an increase in the number of Kerala Gulf migrants. Kuwait started some new projects and it created some job opportunities in Kuwait. It may be the reason behind the little growth of Malayalee migrants in the Kuwait. It is for the first time after the Gulf war showing a positive trend in the Kuwait. From 1980 to 2018, the trend of Kerala Gulf migration is changing time to time. But destinations have been in favor of the UAE and KSA. The present situation is in more favor to the UAE than KSA.

Observations and Findings

Kerala Gulf Migration from 1980 to 2018 (2.4)

Year	Number of Kerala Gulf Migrants	Number of Increasing (+) / Decreasing (-) Gulf Migrants	Percentage of Growth (Increase (+) or Decrease (-))	Percentage of Kerala Gulf Migrants from Total Kerala Migrants	Total Number of Kerala Migrants
1980	1.86 Lakh	-----	-----	88.5%	2.1 lakh
1980-1987	3,00,929	+1.14 lakhs	+62%	91.2%	3,29,656
1987-1993	6,41,387	+340,458	+ 1.1 time (113 %)	95.8%	6,68,867
1993-1998	12,78,21,1	+636,824	+99.2%	93.8%	13,61,955
1998-2003`	16,34,43,0	+356,219	+27.8%	88.9%	18,38,478
2003-2008	19,41,422	+306,992	+18%	88.5%	21,93,41,5
2008-2011	20,31,117	+89695	+4.6%	89%	22,80,543
2011-2013	14,25,423	-605,694	-33.5%	88%	16,28,65,3
2013-2014	20,49,63,3	+62,4210	+43.2%	85.33%	24,00,375
2011-2014	20,4,963,3	+1,8516	+0.91%	85.33%	240,037,5
2014-2016	20,28,651	-20,982	-1 %	89.1 %	22,71,725
2016-2018	18,93,752	-1,34,899	-6.6 %	89.2 %	21,21,887

Source: Government of Kerala, 1980, 1988, 1993 & CDS, 2015, 2019

In 1980, Kerala had 1.86 Gulf migrants with 91.2 percent of Kerala migrants. It was the first official information regarding the Kerala Gulf migration. Eight point eight percent of total Malayalee migrants were in non-Gulf countries in 1980. It clearly shows that this period was facilitating a large volume of Malayalee migrants to GCC countries. In 1987, the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants reached 0.3 million (300,929) with a 62 percent growth rate. It was 91.2 percent of Kerala migrants. Within seven years, 0.1 million (1,14,929) Malayalee Gulf migrants increased in GCC countries. After six years in 1993, Malayalee Gulf migration reached to 95.8 percent of total Malayalee migrants with 0.6 million (6, 41,387). This period marked 1.1 times growth in the number of Malayalee Gulf emigrants. In 1998, the number of

Kerala Gulf migrants jumped to 93.8 percent (127,821,1) of total Malayalee migrants. The period between 1993 and 1998 marked a 99.2 growth rate in the number of Kerala Gulf migrants with 0.6 million (636,824) Gulf migrants. It was the peak time of Kerala Gulf migration and this time only 6.2 percent Kerala migrants chose destination beyond the GCC countries.

In 2003, the number of Kerala Gulf migrants reached 1.63 million (163, 443, 0) with 88.9 percent of total Malayalee migrants. The period between 1998 and 2003, five years witnessed the 27 percent growth rate in the Malayalee Gulf migration. From 1980 onwards, this is the first time that the growth rate of Gulf migration has decreased. In 2008, the number of Kerala migrants was 1.94 million (19,41,4,2) with 88.5 percent of Malayalee migration. The period between 2003 and 2008 marked 18 percent of the growth in the number of Gulf migrants. From 1987 to 2008, it showed a decreasing trend in the growth rate of Malayalee migrants to Gulf migration. Eighty-nine percent of the Malayalee migrants reached to GCC in 2011. From 2008 to 2011, the number of 89,695 Kerala Gulf migrants increased with a growth rate of 4.6 percent, but it is marked the lowest growth rate since 1980. The global economic recession and crude oil price crisis were the peak at this period and affected the financial sector of GCC countries negatively. They are partially or completely troubled with this global economic recession. Contradictions are noted in the result of the Malayalee Pravasi Census in 2013. There is a drastic difference in the total number of Kerala migrants and the number of Gulf migrants with previous and further studies. From 1980 onwards, a considerable reduction of the number of Gulf migrants 605,694 (-33.5%) is noted in 2013. But it is showing some contradiction in the number of Malayalee migrants with the data of previous studies. I do not have alternative statistics to evaluate the objectivity and reliability of data. In 2014, Kerala noted that 85.33 percent of Malayalee migrants are working in GCC countries and this result is also contradictory when compared to Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013. Large scale differences are

noted in the number of migrants. Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013 indicated that Kerala has 1.62 million (16,28,653) Malayalee migrants across the world in 2013 whereas CDS Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2011 revealed that the total number of Kerala migrants are 2.19 million (21,93,415). It shows the number of 0.56 million (564,762) difference in two years. Just after one year, CDS studies revealed that the number of Kerala migrants are 2.4 million (240,037,5). When compared to the Pravasi Malayalee Census, 0.77 million (771,722) number of migrants have increased. When we consider the studies of CDS, it reports only 0.9 percent of the growth in the number of Malayalee migrants between 2011 and 2014. Kerala Migration Studies of 2016 and 2018 shows the reduction of Malayalee migrants in GCC countries. The number of Malayalee Gulf migrants was 2.02 million (20,28,651) in 2016 and it reduced to 1.8 million (18,93,752) in 2018. The UAE is leading with a major share of Malayalee migrants (39.1%) and 22.9 percent of Malayalee Gulf migrants are working in KSA in 2018. The UAE has been leading with a large portion of Malayalee migrants since 2003. An important finding is that in the history of Kerala Gulf migration noted the lowest growth rate in the number of Malayalee Gulf migrants in 2018. It has to find out the reason behind the decreasing number of Kerala Gulf migrants through the present study.

Conclusion

The present chapter made a detailed discussion on the history of Malayalee migration in general and Malayalee Gulf migration in particular from historical to the present scenario. Historical discussion on Malayalee migration helps to understand the present context of Malayalee migration to the UAE. Eleven major studies (Kerala Housing and Employment Survey 1980, Study on utilization of Gulf Remittances 1988, Migration Survey 1994, Kerala Migration Survey 1998, 20003, 20008, 2011, 2014, 2016 and 2018 and Pravasi Malayalee Cencus 2013) are used to understand the historical context of Malayalee Gulf migration especially the Gulf migration to the UAE. It shows that the UAE and KSA are the favorite destinations of

Malayalee migrants. The discussions in the chapter give the background of the present study. The next chapter discusses the trends, patterns and changes of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE based on primary data,

Chapter 3

Trends, Patterns and Changes of Kerala Gulf Migration to the UAE

Introduction

It is a fact that trends and patterns of migration change from time to time. Kerala Gulf migration is also not free from this process. Kerala Gulf migration has been continuing, and the nature and trends of the migration have been hanging from time to time (Musthafa, 2014). This chapter intensely discusses the trends, patterns, and changes of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE. It discusses various components that affect the process of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE, directly or indirectly. Factors from both homeland and host land have been influencing the process of Gulf migration in Kerala. A large volume of Kerala Gulf migration has been started since 1970. The first phase of Kerala Gulf migration was dominated by KSA until the end of the 20th century. The 1990s Gulf war affected the migrants negatively and migrants were compelled to return from the Gulf. An alternative option for returnees was to migrate to the UAE and KSA. Rajan and Zachariah (2010, p. 22) observed that

“KSA was a principal destination of Malayalees in 1998, with 37.5 percent of Kerala emigrants’ arriving there. The proportion of migrants from Kerala to KSA declined to 26.7 percent in 2003 and further dropped to 23 percent in 2008. On the one hand, the UAE has received a rising proportion of Kerala emigrants from 31 percent in 1998 to 41.9 percent in 2008”

Kerala Gulf migration has been undergoing various stages and trends since the 1930s. This chapter examines the different aspects and components of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE, and its trends and patterns primarily based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected from the UAE with 310 samples. In which 51 respondents are female and male constitutes 259 respondents. Both the snowball and stratified sampling methods are used for selecting the samples. Interview and questionnaire methods are used for collecting

information from respondents. Previous studies, journals and government statics are used for the secondary data.

Background of the Respondents by sex and Marital Status (Table 3.1)

Sex	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Marital Status	Number of Respondents		Percent of Respondents	
			Single	80	Male (71) Female (9)	26%	Male (89%) Female (11%)
Female	51	16%	Married	226	Male (184)	73%	Male (81%)
					Female (42)		Female (19%)
Male	259	84%	Divorcee	4	Male (3)	1 %	Male (75%)
					Female (1)		Female (25%)
Total	310	100%	Total	310		100%	

Kerala Gulf migration is a male-dominated phenomenon. There is a considerable difference between the numbers of male migrants with female migrants. According to the Kerala Malayalee Census 2013 (2013), the representation of working women migrants are only seven percent of total Kerala labor migration, and the percent of working women migrants in the UAE is 4.5 percent. It shows that Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE is a male-dominated process from past to present. Present Study (Table 3.1) shows that 84 percent (259) of the respondents are male of total respondents. Women migrants constitute 16 percent (59) respondents of total respondents. In the present study, the percent of female respondents is more than the rate of female migrants in the UAE. The reason behind the less proportion of females in the migration process has to be discussed. Less percent of women migrants are not only in Malayalee Gulf migration but other migration also noted.

In the present study, the majority of migrants (73 percent) are married in which 184 respondents (81 percent) are male, and 42 respondents (19 percent) are female. In the total married respondents, only 12 percent of male respondents (31) married before migration, and 76 percent of the total female respondents (39) married before migration. Eighty respondents are single which constitutes 26 percent of the total respondents. In which 71 respondents (89 percent) are male, and nine respondents (11 percent) are female. Four percent of respondents are a divorcee with 1.2 percent. Among the divorced, three respondents are male, and one is female.

The important fact is that 81 percent (251) of respondents were single before migration. Among them 95 percent (239) respondents are male, and five percent of respondents (12) are female. Among female respondents, 39 respondents (76 percent) are married before migration, and 12 respondents (24 percent) are single before migration. In the present study, the majority of the male respondents got married after migration and the majority of the female respondents got married before migration.

Age group of the Respondents (Table 3.2)

Age Group	20- 25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	Above 50	Total
Number of Respondents	24	56	55	57	59	51	8	310
Percent of Respondents	8%	18%	18%	18%	19%	16%	3%	100%

Karla Gulf migration mostly consists of the laborer migration and hence the age of migrants plays an essential role in this process. Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013 (2013) shows that 39 percent (5,55,157) of Kerala working migrants belong to the age group of 25- 34 and 32 percent (4, 61, 118) belongs to 35-44 age group. The age group of 18-24 and 45-54 shares seven percent (97, 248) and 18 percent (4, 61, 118) respectively. The age group of the majority of migrants belongs to the age group of 25-54. Zachariah and Rajan (2019) pointed out that the majority of

Malayalee migrants belong to the age group of 31- 45 and 25.3 percent of Malayalee migrants belong to the 16-30 age group.

In the present study (Table 3.3), the majority of respondents come under the age group of 25 to 50 constituting the 89 percent (278) of total respondents. Three percent (eight) of respondents belong to the age group of above fifty. Twenty four respondents are aged 20 to 25 and they constitute the eight percent of total respondents. In the age group of 20 to 50, the majority of respondents are the age group of 40-45, which is 19 percent of total respondents (59). At the same time, 25-30, 30-35 and 35-40 age groups have 56, 55 and 57 respondents respectively. The 25 to 40 age group constitutes 168 respondents with 54 percent of total respondents in short. The majority of respondents belong to the working-class population, and they are the bread earner of their families.

Respondents by Structure of the Family (Table 3.3))

Structure of Family	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Joint Family	149	48%
Nuclear Family	161	52%
Total	310	100%

A family is an essential unit of society. The structure of the family plays a vital role in Kerala Gulf migration. Joint family refers to the system in which father, mother, their parents, their brothers, and sisters or married and unmarried children stay under a single roof. The nuclear family is one type of family in which father, mother and their unmarried children live together. The joint family was the characteristic feature of a rural village. The role of migration is inevitable in the transformation of the joint family to the nuclear family.

In the present study (Table 3.3), 48 percent of respondents (149) belongs to a joint family, and 52 percent (161) respondents migrated from the nuclear family among the Gulf migrants. One

of the core objects of the majority of Gulf migrants is constructing separate houses after marriage. It led to the formation of a nuclear family among the Gulf migrants.

Respondents by Religion (Table 3.4)

Religion	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Muslim	202	65%
Hindu	59	19%
Christian	49	16%
Total	310	100%

Participation in all three major religious communities is visible in Kerala Gulf migration. Zachariah and Rajan (2019, p. 33) observed that

“about 42 percent of the total emigrants from Kerala are Muslims, followed by Hindus (35 percent). The proportion of Christians (24 percent) among the emigrants has remained constant between 2013 and 2018. The increase in emigration was only among Muslims compared to the other two religions during 2013-2018”.

The majority of Kerala Gulf migrants belong to the Muslim community. In the present study, (Table 3.4), 65 percent of respondents are Muslims (202 respondents). Hindus constitute 19 percent (59 respondents) and Christians are 16 percent (49 respondents). The UAE is an Islamic state, and it may accelerate the large volume of Muslim migration to the UAE. Primary data shows that the culture of chain migration is influential among the Muslim community to compare with the other two religious communities.

Respondents by Districts (Table 3.5)

Districts	Number of Respondents	percent of Respondents
Thiruvananthapuram	04	01%
Kollam	05	02%
Pathanamthitta	02	01%
Kottayam	09	03%
Alapuzha	07	02%
Ernakulum	03	01%
Thrissur	11	04%
Malappuram	165	53%
Palakkad	19	06%
Kozhikode	37	12%
Wayanad	09	03%
Kannur	22	07%
Kasargod	17	05%
Total	310	100%

The present state of Kerala constituted with 14 districts from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargod. Kerala Gulf migration affected all districts of Kerala. According to Malayalee Pravasi Census 2013 (2013), except Idamalakudi Panchayath in Idukki district, all other Panchayaths in Kerala have migrants in different parts of the world. The Malayalee Pravasi Census report indicates that a large number of migrants are from Malappuram district (18 %) and fewer number belongs to Idukki district (one percent). Zachariah and Rajan (2019, p. 30) rightly pointed out that “Malappuram has been the highest migrant sending district and the district has also the maximum number of migrant population with nearly one-fifth of the total population”.

Table 3.5 shows that 53 percent of respondents in this study migrated to the UAE from Malappuram district (165 respondents). Kozhikode, the Neighbor district, has 12 percent (37) of total respondents. The District of Kannur and Palakkad share seven percent (22) and six percent (19) of total respondents respectively. Kasargod and Trissur, another two districts of Kerala share four percent (17) and five percent (11) of respondents. The Districts of Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, Palakkad, Kasargod and Trissur share 87 percent of total respondents and the rest of the seven districts share 13 percent of total respondents. Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013 (2013) shows that Kerala has 0.57 million (5,73, 289) migrants in the UAE and it is 35 percent of Kerala migrants and 40 percent of Kerala Gulf migrants. Malappuram district leads with 16 percent (93,294) of total Kerala Migrants in the UAE following Trissur with 14 percent (81,177) and Kannur with 13 percent (76,421) migrants (ibid).

Educational Qualification of Respondents (Table 3.6)

Educational Qualification	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Lower Primary	03	01%
Upper Primary	05	02%
SSLC/ Matriculation	88	28%
Plus Two/ Post matriculation	76	25%
Diploma	32	10%
UG	82	26%
PG	24	08%
Total	310	100%

Educational qualifications are important aspects of migration, especially in labor migration. The majority of the first generation Malayalee Gulf migrants are not educated. But with time,

early migrants realized the value of educational qualification in host land and created awareness in their home towns that without the educational qualification, getting a good job was difficult in UAE. The realization of the value of education in the job market led to huge investment in the educational sector of Kerala, especially in the Malabar area. In 1998, only 33.4 percent of Kerala's population with secondary or higher levels of education lived in the north (Malappuram to Kasargod), and the remaining 66.6 percent lived in the south and central region of the state. When it comes to 2011, the corresponding proportions were 39 percent in Malabar and 61 percent in the rest of the state (Zachariah and Rajan, 2012). But during the early phase of Gulf migration, education status was low among the Muslim migrants compared with Hindus and Christians.

In the present study (Table 3.6), the major qualification of the respondents is matriculation followed by post-matriculation, diploma, under graduation and post-graduation. Only one percent of (three) respondents have lower primary education, and two percent (five) respondents have an upper primary education. They are migrants from the early years of migration. One respondent from this group stated,

“I had migrated to Bombay (Mumbai) in 1974 at the age of seventeen and my family was struggling with poverty. As I was the elder son, I did not have any other option except to migrate and protect my family. The same year I reached the UAE” (Muhammed, 62, male).

The important thing is that almost all first phase Gulf migrants' experiences are similar and their socio-economic conditions were not in favor to acquire education. Another respondent reveals that “poverty and unemployment were at a high level in the 1970s and 1980s. Arranging a meal a day was a big challenge to my father. I did not bother about my study, took a passport at the age of 16 and migrated to the UAE via Bombay (Mumbai) in 1976”. All these respondents belong to the Malabar region, especially from Malappuram and Kozhikode. In the

present study (Table 3.6), 28 percent of respondents have matriculation and 25 percent of respondents cleared post-matriculation as their educational qualification. They migrated to the UAE mostly in the last decade of the 20th century and in the beginning of the 21st century. The majority of respondents opine that they had to bear the responsibility of family and had to give up education.

But in some cases, migrants had the opportunity to pursue their education, but they were not interested. A large number of Gulf migration from Kerala created a commonly placed thought among the youth that Gulf is an option to earn without much education. One respondent had migrated to the UAE just two weeks before his matriculation examination (SSLC). Most of the respondents now realize the value of education and they feel that if they had the good educational qualification, they would have got better jobs. They, now, make their natives aware about the importance of education in the job market and promote higher education among their families and natives. Most of these respondents work in semiskilled and unskilled sectors. The vital fact is that the first phase of Kerala Gulf migration made a tremendous change in Kerala society economically and educationally. Migrants without qualifications spread the awareness that it is tough to exist in the UAE without proper skill and if anybody wants to get a better job, he or she will need to have better educational qualifications. Twenty-six percent (82) of respondents have under graduation and eight percent of respondents (24) have post graduations. Ten percent (32) of respondents have a diploma as qualification and have worked in skilled sectors. All these respondents are migrated to the UAE in the first decade of the 21st century. They are mostly second and third generation Kerala Gulf migrants. But it cannot be said that all second and third generation Gulf migrants are educated and qualified.

Source of Visa (Table 3.7)

Source	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Father & Brothers	143	46%
Relatives & Friends	109	35%
Agency	58	19%
Total	310	100%

The recruitment procedure is one of the important factors of migration. An internal migrant can move anywhere in their country without any paperwork and with a few exceptional cases. An Indian can move across the country without any permit except in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. These three states required “Inter Line Permit” for other Indians to visit. In the case of international migration, visa is an essential document required to migrate, and it has to be granted by the destination country through different legal procedures. Each country has its restrictions and regulations to generate visas for foreigners. In the case of Gulf migration in Kerala, relatives and friends who had already migrated played a vital role in getting visas for new migrants. Kerala migrants got visa mainly through two sources, through the contacts of relatives and friends work in Gulf with Arabs and via agents (Government of Kerala, 1988). According to the report of the survey on the Utilization of Gulf Remittances in Kerala conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala (1988), 56 percent of migrants got their visa through relatives and friends. Only 19 percent arranged visas through agencies. Arranging visas by migration networks reduced the migration cost at a large scale when agencies charged a large amount for the visa.

In the present study (Table 3.7), 46 percent of respondents got visa via their father and brothers working in the UAE. Thirty five percent (109) respondents got visas through friends and relatives. It shows that 81 percent of respondents got a visa by their nearest people who work

in UAE. Chain migration has been playing a crucial role in Kerala Gulf migration. From the first phase to present, chain migration has been continuing and led to the persistence of Gulf migration to the present. Only 19 percent of respondents procured visas through travel agencies. They are first-generation Gulf migrants in their family and most of them do not have any contact and friends in the Gulf region. Majority of respondents that if they did not get any job in their home town, Gulf was an alternative option. The primary reason behind this confidence that their relatives and friends were working in Gulf countries without much educational qualifications and skills.

Year reached at the UAE (3.8)

Year	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
1970-1975	02	01%
1976-1980	03	01%
1981-1985	05	02%
1986-1990	12	04%
1991-1995	26	08%
1996-2000	28	09%
2001-2005	39	13%
2006-2010	82	26%
2011-2017	113	36%
Total	310	100%

The last quarter of the 20th century was the peak time of Kerala Gulf migration. The majority of respondents of the present study are the second and third generation of Kerala Gulf migrants in the UAE. In this study (Table 3.8), eight percent (22) of respondents migrated to the UAE between 1970 and 1990, most of them were first-generation Gulf migrants. The vital aspect is

that those who migrated in the 1970s are still working in the UAE. One respondent revealed that “he migrated to the UAE in 1974 and worked in a different sector and witnessed the development of the UAE” (Abu, Male, 61). According to him, the situation of the Gulf has changed a lot from the past. Once it was the inn for job seekers, but now it is challenging to work there without qualification and work experience. He added, “I have arranged visa for many people including my family members, relatives, and natives”. Thirty-nine percent (121) of respondents of the present study migrated to the UAE in the first decade of the 21st century, and 36 percent of (13) respondents reached the UAE in the second decade of the 21st century. 21st-century migrants are educated, and skilled or semiskilled compared to previous migrants. Twelve percent of respondents reached the UAE in the last decade of the 20th century. The last decade of the 20th century was very crucial to Malayalees because of the war between Kuwait and Iraq. Lakhs of Malayalees returned to Kerala because of the war. It made a fearful atmosphere among the Malayalee Gulf migrants and their relatives. But the war did not spread to other GCC Countries and end with new hopes. The significant difference between the Kerala Gulf migrants of the 20th and 21st century is most of the 21st century (second and third generation of the migrant) migrants are educated and skilled. First generation (last quarter 20th century) was mostly less educated and semiskilled or unskilled. The first generation of Gulf migrants understood the problem of lack of education in the job market. Hence they tried to create awareness among their natives in the homeland about the importance of education and skill. This has resulted in drastic changes, and people especially the relatives and friends of migrants had given more importance to education.

Reason Behind Gulf Migration (Table 3.9)

Reason to Gulf Migration	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Unemployment	38	12%
Seasonal unemployment	43	14%
Absence of Suitable jobs (underemployment)	87	28%
Low Wage	68	22%
For better opportunities	71	23%
For a change from home town	03	01%
Total	310	100%

Kerala Gulf migration is purely labor migration. Azeez and Beegum (2009) point out that major reasons for Malayalee migration is the economic benefit of host land. Kerala was an agricultural-based society, and scope for industry was less due to different reasons especially lack land compared to other states of India. Historically Kerala is largely agricultural and agro-processing based, with a negligible industrial sector. It has been discussed that Kerala Gulf migration is purely a labor migration. The present study shows that the major reason behind Gulf migration is mainly economic more than other facts. Unemployment, seasonal unemployment, underemployment and low wage in home town are significant reasons behind Gulf migration. Table 3.9 shows that 12 percent (38) of respondents have chosen migration to the UAE because of unemployment. Seasonal unemployment was the reason for 14 percent (43) of respondents migrate to the UAE. Though they had skill and skill-based jobs were available only a particular season. They wanted to find permanent job and income in home town but they failed to do so. Twenty-eight percent (87) respondents chose migration because of the underemployment. They already had jobs, but not according to their skills and qualification. But they were compelled to continue in those jobs because of the absence of other options. Low wage in home town is another reason to migrate as pointed out by 22 percent (68)

of respondents. The important factor is that laborers from north India and central India migrated to Kerala because of the high wage of Kerala compared to their states, at the same time Malayalees migrated to other countries because of the low wage and lack of opportunities in Kerala. Human tends to seek better opportunities and 23 percent of respondents have migrated to the UAE for better chances. Only one percent (three) respondents stated that they wanted a change from the atmosphere of the home town and chose migration.

UAE as Migration Destination (Table 3.10)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Opportunities and good salary	164	53%
Presence of family, relatives and friends	102	33%
Developing economy and growing tourism	22	07%
Freedom and enjoyment	05	02%
Availability of Visa	17	05%
Total	310	100%

It has already discussed that Kerala migration to the UAE is a labor-oriented migration. So the labor-oriented nature of host land has influenced the migrants from different countries. The UAE is one of the leading global destination of migrants from across the world. Previous studies on Kerala migration shows that the UAE is the favorite migration destination for Malayalees (Government of Kerala, 2013). The important aspect of the UAE is that it opens the door for skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled labors. It has become a favorite destination for people from different parts of the world. The UAE has formulated as a principal destination for Indian migrants for the searching job (Zachariah et al. 2004). Migrants choose specific areas to migrate where they have their relatives, friends, or members of their community as they feel

more comfortable to adjust with their presence. In the migratory process, family network plays an important role.

Table 3.10 shows that 53 percent (164) of respondents chose the UAE for better opportunities and salaries. They felt that compared to other labor migration destinations, the UAE is the better job opportunities and “2020 world expo” in the UAE would bring more job opportunities. The presence of the nearest people in the migrating destination will accelerate the volume of migration. It provides confidence to migrants in host land. Thirty-three percent (102) has chosen the UAE because of the presence of their friends and relatives. As it was mentioned earlier, 81 percent of respondents got a visa with the help of their relatives and friends. Dubai is one of the most developed cities in the world with a growing economy and a well-settled tourism sector. Seven (22) percent of respondents assumed the future possibilities of the UAE in tourism and migrated. Five percent (17) respondents migrated to the UAE because of the availability of visas. They didn’t have any particular interest in any country as a choice of migration. Their primary intention was to get a good job with a better salary.

Migration to any Other Countries Before the UAE (Table 3.11)

Migration to any Other Countries Before UAE for Employment	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Yes	24	08%
No	286	92%
Total	310	100

Ninety two percent (282) of respondents in this study are first time migrants to the UAE. According to the majority of respondents, compared to other GCC countries, the UAE is the best place for work and living, though expenses are a little high in the UAE. Eight percent (24) respondents have migrated to other GCC countries before migrating to the UAE. Malayalees

have been migrating to all six GCC countries since the first quarter of the 20th century. The number of Malayalee migrants varies from country to country because of the nature of the migration destination.

Migration Destination Before the UAE (Table 3.12)

Countries	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Bahrain	02	8%
Kuwait	05	21%
Saudi Arabia	12	50%
Qatar	05	21%
Total	24	100%

Table 3.12 shows that out of the 24 respondents, 50 percent (12) of respondents went to KSA before migrating to the UAE. They were labor migrants and worked there for many years. But they were terminated by companies because of economic recession and government tax reformation. Twenty-one percent (five) of migrants went to Kuwait, and 21 percent (five) of respondents worked in Qatar before migrating to the UAE. Eight percent (two) of respondents worked in Bahrain, but they could not work long due to many factors and returned to the home and later migrated to the UAE.

The profession in Previous Migration and Reason Behind Leave From Previous Destination (Table 3.13)

Profession	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Reason to Leave Previous Destination	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Cook	02	08%	Low wage	09	38%
Driver	08	33%	Tough job and circumstances	05	20%
Engineer	07	29%	Reservation of the job for their citizens	10	42%
Mechanic	04	17%	Total	24	100%
Nurse	03	13%			
Total	24	100%			

The selected respondents in this study were working in different professions in the countries to which they had migrated earlier. All respondents migrated with a lot of hope and economic burdens. But they failed to survive in host land because of the low wage, difficulty job, and circumstances and new policies of the government, etc. Table 3.13 shows that 33 percent (eight) of respondents were drivers. Among them, four respondents were house drivers, and the rest of them (four) worked in companies. The majority of the drivers (six) worked in KSA. Mainly, the taxation policy and “Nitaqat” (localization) led them to lose their job, and they were compelled to work with low salaries. Twenty-nine percent (seven) of respondents are engineers. Due to the global economic crisis, companies did not get a new project, and the low price of crude oil in the international market also led to canceling new projects. So companies were forced to reduce their staff at a large level. Nurses constitute 13 percent (three) of the total respondents. Nurses were happy with their job in their previous destinations. But they felt their remuneration is less than what they expected. They are trying to get visas to European countries. Seventeen percent (four) of respondents were mechanics, and two respondents were

cooks. Low wages and tough job circumstances compelled them to leave the country. According to the table (3.13), the majority of (80 percent) respondents left their previous destinations because of low wages and the government's policy of localization. Difficult jobs and circumstances caused them to leave the previous destination in the case of 20 percent (five) respondents. Uncertainty in the job market of the GCC countries are most common, and sometimes it is a strong reason for migrants to leave their previous destination.

Respondents by Emirates (Destination in the UAE) (Table 3.14)

Emirates	Number of Respondents	Percent of respondents
Abu Dhabi	78	25%
Ajman	23	07%
Dubai	101	33%
Fujairah	34	11%
Ras al-Khaimah	15	05%
Sharjah	48	15%
Umm al Quwain	11	4%
Total	310	100%

The UAE is the federation of seven emirates including Abu Dhabi as capital, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al Quwain. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are the most developed emirates among the seven emirates. Dubai is one of the leading tourist destinations and as well as a good job market in the world (Vora, 2008). The rest of the emirates also make tremendous changes in all spheres of society. Dubai leads in the number of Malayalee migrants. The important aspect is that Malayalees are visible in all seven emirates of the UAE. They contribute a significant role in the labor force of the UAE. Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and Fujairah are the main areas where Malayalees are highly concentrated. Malayalees have visible proportions in the rest of the emirates. As Venier (2008, p. 4) mentioned,

“Within the federation of the seven emirates, a vast majority of Keralites has settled in Abu Dhabi and the conurbation of Dubai-Sharjah- Ajman. Such a substantial community contributes to a sort of south Indian identity in the urban landscape, particularly, through economic activities directly linked to Indian daily life consumption”.

Table 3.14 shows that 33 percent (101) of respondents are working in Dubai. According to respondents, Dubai is a charming city to work and live. But life expenses are a little high compared to other emirates, especially for accommodation. If accommodation is provided by the sponsor or company, Dubai is an excellent destination to work. Compared to other emirates, Dubai is well planned and connected city by road and rail. Dubai Metro is one of the best metros in the world. Dubai gives more importance to the tourism and service sector. It generates more skilled, semiskilled and unskilled jobs. Dubai presents itself as luxurious and all its new construction will be different and best in the world. Now Dubai is the most attractive city in the world.

At the same time, crowded atmosphere and high living expenses make life burden to ordinary labors in Dubai. Twenty-five percent (78) respondents are working in the capital city, Abu Dhabi. It is a calm and quiet city and all the respondents are happy in Abu Dhabi mainly because it is not overcrowded and life expenses compared to Dubai. Malayalees are visible in all areas of the city. Abu Dhabi invests much of its economy in the development project, and they depend on oil export as a primary income source. Decreasing the price of crude oil in the international market affects their income on a large scale. But they are trying to solve it by other sources. The UAE had not been implementing any taxes (Taxes on goods and services) until 31st December 2017. But the financial crisis compelled them to enforce taxes on goods and services since the first of January 2018 to overcome the economic crisis. These tax policies have affected foreign labors and traders negatively.

Fifteen percent (48) of respondents in this study are working in Sharjah, one of the developed emirates in the UAE. A major attraction of the Sharjah city is the cheap cost of accommodation. Often people work in Dubai choosing to live in Sharjah because of the availability and cost of housing. Fujairah is a little away from the capital city of Abu Dhabi and one of the developing emirates. Compared to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Fujairah has not yet developed in terms of physical infrastructure. Hence Fujairah does not create that many job opportunities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi do. Malayalees are the visible population in Fujairah, and 11 percent (34) of respondents in this study are working in Fujairah. According to one respondent, “working and living in Fujairah is good because of the low living expenses and low cost of accommodation” (Vipin, Male, 32). But transportation and other facilities have not yet been developed. Respondents have to depend on Dubai, Sharjah, or Abu Dhabi airport for international travel. The salary structure in Fujairah is less compared to other emirates. The expenses of food and accommodation are negotiable and it will help to reduce their expenses in Fujairah. The rest of the 16 percent (49) of respondents are working in Ajman, Ras al Khaimah, and Umm Al Quwain. Comparatively, Malayalees are less in number in these emirates. Life expenses and job opportunities are less in Ajman, Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al Quwain.

Respondents by Profession

Malayalee migrants are working in different professions in the UAE. Khadria (2010, p. 67) has pointed out:

“Indian migrant workers in GCC countries belong to all three categories of labor: 1) Professionals (e.g., doctors, nurses, engineers, architects, accountants, and managers). 2) Semi-Skilled Workers (e.g., craftsmen, drivers, artisans, and other technical workers) and 3) Unskilled laborers in construction sites, farmlands, livestock ranches, shops and stores and households”.

It has already discussed that majority of Kerala migrants in the UAE are semi-skilled and unskilled labors. According to Pravasi Malayalee Census (2013), the UAE has 0.507 million (5,07,084) Malayalee working migrants. But Malayalee Pravasi Census, categorized Malayalee migrants as skilled, semi-skilled and other jobs. It counted cook, security and construction workers, etc. as people under the “other jobs” category. The important aspect is that “other job” constitutes around 57.9 percent of the total Malayalee working migrants in the UAE (ibid).

Respondents by Profession (Table 3.15)

Profession	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Skilled		
Engineer	56	18%
Accountant	51	16%
Translator	04	01%
Manger	27	09%
Nurse	16	05%
Business	12	04%
Teacher	18	06%
Semi-Skilled		
Cook	08	03%
Sales man	19	06%
Driver	82	26%
Security	03	01%
Sales man	19	06%
Tailor	05	02%
Unskilled		
Office boy	06	02%
Construction	03	01%
Total	310	100%

The present study (table 3.16) shows that majority of the respondents are working as drivers which are 26 percent (82) of total respondents. Driving is the most required profession in the UAE and proper payment is also made to the drivers on time. Drivers are mainly working as house drivers, company drivers and taxi drivers. Getting driving licenses in the UAE is a difficult task. One respondent mentioned that it took one year from him to pass the driving licenses test while another respondent said that he passed the driving test within one month. According to the respondents, if one has a valid the UAE driving license, he does not have to bother about job opportunities. The UAE job market required more number of drivers. Malayalee migrants used the opportunities very well. Eighteen percent (56) of respondents are working as engineers with attractive salaries and facilities. “World Expo 2020” is the biggest project in Dubai and it required a large number of skilled and unskilled labors. The UAE is expecting more investment from the rest of the world through the world expo 2020. If it is going to be successful, it will make more job opportunities in the UAE. The Malayalee laborers are visible in the accountant session as well. 16 percent (51) of respondents are working as accountants in different companies and firms. According to respondents, accounting is a very hectic job and always will be a headache. But the attractive salary and other facilities they receive in the UAE keep them in this profession. Three percent (eight) of respondents are working as cooks, among them, three respondents are in hotel, and five respondents are in houses. Compared to cooks in hotels, house cooks have larger problems, because they don’t have any fixed time of work and all the time they need to be available in the kitchen and around. They have free accommodation and food. Malayalee nurses are visible in all hospitals in the UAE. In the present study, five percent (16) of respondents are working as nurses. Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013 (2013) indicates that four percent of Malayalee working migrants in the UAE are nurses which contributes to around 19,962. Malayalee workers have an excellent impression among the natives and foreigners. The teaching sector is another job providing

sector to foreigners in the UAE. There are many Indian schools across the seven emirates, and all most in all schools Malayalee faculties are visible. Pravasi Malayali census 2013 (2013) noted that 3,475 teachers are working in the UAE, and it will be 0.6 percent of total Malayalee labor force in the UAE. Six percent of respondents are working as teachers in the UAE. The teaching field offers attractive salaries and other facilities. It attracts a large number of teachers from different parts of the world to the UAE. A respondent revealed that in Kerala, teachers get better payment and facilities in government and government-aided institutions, while in private sector teachers are exploited and given low salaries. Compared to other Indian migrants, Malayalees are less in the construction field. Once Malayalees were dominant in the construction field. The present study shows only one percent of (three) respondents work in the construction field. They stated that it is tough to work in the construction field because of extreme weather, but the absence of other opportunities compel them to continue in the construction field. Nine percent (27) of respondents are working as managers in various companies and firms with attractive salaries and facilities. One percent (four) of respondents are working as Malayalam-Arabic translators in the courts of the UAE. In the first phase of Kerala Gulf migration, tailors had great opportunities in Gulf countries. Over time, the importance of tailors decreased because of the availability of readymade dresses at a low cost. Two percent (five) of respondents are working as tailors in textiles. Now different professional security companies are visible in the UAE and they are providing security services to apartments, hotels and business institutions across the country. In the present study, one percent (three) respondents work as security staff. Four percent (12) of respondents are doing their own business in different sectors and two percent (six) respondents are working as office assistants in the UAE.

Working Hours per Day (Table 3.16)

Working Hours per Day	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
8 Hour	124	40%
10 Hour	115	37%
12 Hour	43	14%
14 Hour	28	09%
Total	310	100%

It is noted that the average working hours of the sample migrants in the UAE ranges from eight to fourteen hours per day and Friday is the official holiday (Zachariah et al. 2004). Working hours are the most important in work and labor. Often white-collar job holders have fixed working time and semiskilled, and unskilled workers have to work more than the prescribed time. Often they will get overtime remuneration, but it could not be expected in all sectors. “Person employed in professional, technical, administrative, executive and managerial and clerical job works only eight hours per day” (Zachariah et al. 2004, p. 2230). Human Rights Watch Report in 2014 shows that domestic workers are often compelled to work up to 21 hours per day with no rest and no days off (Human Rights Watch, 2017).

Table 3.16 shows that 37 percent of respondents are working around 10 hours per day. Forty percent of respondents work in eight hours but this can change. Fourteen percent of respondents work approximately 12 hours, and 14 percent of respondents work around 14 hours per day. Drivers and salesmen are working in 14 hours category. More than that, house drivers should be ready to work at any time, and they don’t have any fixed working time. Professionals like engineers and accountants also have to work overtime in particular situations. It is difficult to say a fixed working time to all professionals in the UAE.

Respondents by Monthly Salary (Table 3.17)

Salary (in UAE Dirham)	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
1000-1500	47	15%
1501-3000	109	35%
3001-5000	40	13%
5001-7500	53	17%
7501-10000	28	09%
Above 10000	33	11%
Total	310	100%

Attractive salary package is one of the vital aspects to choose the UAE for jobs. The salary is mainly based on professions in the UAE. Skilled and unskilled labors are getting good pay than unskilled workers. Now Malayalee migrants are more aware about wages, and their network in host land helps them to find good jobs with good salary. “Monthly payments of migrants in the UAE starts from less than 500 Dirham to more than 5000 Dirham and 48 percent of the total sample earn a monthly salary less than 1500 Dirham” (Zachariah et al, 2004, p. 2231). According to their study, nine percent of respondents get more than 5000 dirhams per month as salary, and these are skilled professionals working in various sectors and those who get 1000 dirhams and below works in the semi-skilled and unskilled area (ibid). In the present study (table 3.17), the lowest salary package of the respondents are between 1000 to 1500 dirhams, and 15 percent (47) of respondents belong to this group. They are mainly working as cooks, construction workers, and office boys. It is noted that most of them have food and accommodation at free of cost or shelter is provided by the company or sponsor. One has to pay at least 500 to 700 dirhams for food and accommodation in a month in the UAE. A respondent stated that without food and accommodation in salary package, it is difficult to live

in the UAE, and nothing can be saved. Migrants are happy with low salary package if they have food and accommodation in the salary package. The majority of the respondents are earning between 1500 to 3000 dirham monthly, and they are drivers, salesmen, tailors, and office assistants. There is no fixed salary for the profession and salary changes in the same profession in different companies. For example, salary of a house driver will be around 1500 to 2000 dirhams monthly, and at the same, a driver in a company or government offices will earn more than 2000 and 3000 dirhams per month. Thirteen percent (13) of respondents are earning between 3000 to 5000 dirham. They mainly belong to the skilled category and work as accountants, teachers and translators and drivers. Seventeen percent (53) of respondents earn between 5000 to 7500 dirham per month. Managers, engineers, and nurses included this salary package. Nine percent (28) of respondents are earning from 7500 dirhams to 10000 dirhams per month, and 11 percent (33) of respondents are earning more than 10000 dirhams per month. They are mainly labors in government offices and businessmen. Malayalees are working in the UAE earn from 1000 dirhams to more than 10000 dirhams per month. More than the profession, the place of the profession is deciding the payment of employees. Often a driver or cook of government offices will earn much better than a teacher or engineer.

Remittances and Malayalee Migrants

Monthly Remittances to Home (Table 3.18)

Rupees in Indian Currency	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
₹ 5000	65	21%
₹ 5001-10000	105	34%
₹10001-15000	72	23%
Above ₹ 15000	68	22%
Total	310	100%

Remittances are playing an important role in the home land of migrants. Gulf remittances have major role in the socio-economic scenario of Kerala society. “It is mostly an individual of the family who migrates to the place of destination and not the whole family. The individual then sends back remittances to his family back in the rural village, and these remittances become the source of the income for the whole family” (Aakansha, 2017, October 22). It has discussed that Kerala Gulf migration has been a job seeking process and economic aspects are more visible than other factors. “Remittances are defined as the portion of migrants earnings sent from the migration destination to the place of origin” (Azeez and Begum, 2009, p. 57). Malayalee Pravasi census 2013 (2013) shows that 50 lakhs Malayalee are depending on Gulf remittances directly and indirectly. It shows remittances play a vital role in a society like Kerala. Sending money to the home town is a monthly routine for each migrant. Because migrant’s family mainly depends on their remittances for livelihood. Gulf remittances made tremendous changes in migrants’ household directly at large scale, and non-migrant households indirectly. Zachariah and Rajan (2015, p. 20) pointed out that “household remittances in Kerala for 2014 calculated around ₹ 24, 374 crores. It was ₹ 15, 129 crores in 2011 and ₹ 12,511 crores in 2008. Household remittances in 2003 were ₹ 7,965 crores”. It shows that the rate of household remittances is increasing from time to time. As per the latest statistics from State Level Bankers Conference, “in the quarter that ended September of 2018, the deposits of Non Residents in Kerala banks are ₹ 1, 81, 623 crores and it was ₹ 1, 57, 926 crores in the same quarter of 2017 and 15 percent of growth has marked from September 2017 to September 2018” (Abraham, 2019, January 1).

In the present study (table 3.19), 34 percent (105) of respondents are sending the amount of ₹ 5000 to ₹ 1000 to home per month. Every migrant household family will expect this month and their daily expenses are based on this money. If salary is delayed migrants borrow money from

friends and send home. Twenty-three percent (72) of respondents send ₹ 10000 to ₹ 15000 and 22 percent (68) sends more than ₹ 15000 to the homeland. Twenty-one percent of migrant's household receives around ₹ 5000 monthly. The number of monthly sending remittances will change based on the requirement of the family. Migrant households are depending on remittances and often they require more amount to fulfill needs. For example, hospital expenses, marriages of friends and relatives and home renovation of relatives etc., require large amount from migrants. Often they will arrange the money from a different source, especially from friend's networks. Migrant Friends and relatives are the essential economic sources for borrowing money from each other. Azeez and Begum (2009, p. 58) noted that “the remittances in Kerala from Gulf countries were 1.74-time revenue receipts of the state, 1.84 annual expenditure of the Kerala government, and seven times what central government granted to state”

Vacation of the Respondents (Table 3.19)

Number of Days	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
30 Days in a year	96	31%
179 Days in a year	07	02%
60 Days in 2 year	105	34%
90 Days in 2 year	50	16%
120 Days in 2 year	47	15%
179 Days in 2 year	05	02%
Total	310	100%

It has already discussed that Kerala Gulf migration is contract labor migration. They have to return after the contract or renew the visa after a fixed interval (mostly two year). The majority of migrants have one holiday in a week which will be Friday. “Almost all firms and public offices work six-day per week and Friday is the official holiday for all establishments in the

UAE” (Zachariah et al. 2004, p. 2231). Majority of migrants are single, and their families are eagerly waiting to meet them. Like monthly salary, annual holidays are different from profession to profession and workplace to workplace. In the present study (table 3.19), 31 percent (96) of respondents will get 30 days leave in a year with salary and two-way flight ticket. The majority of these respondents are skilled professionals and working as engineers, nurses, and teachers. Thirty-four percent (105) of respondents will get 60 days holiday in once in two year. They are drivers, office boys, and construction workers. Sixteen percent (50) of respondents have 90 holidays at once per two year. They are salesmen, cooks and house drivers. Two percent (five) of respondents will take 179 holidays a year. They are businessmen doing business in partnership base. Each partner will conduct business in six months in routine. Another 15 percent (47) respondents have 120 consecutive days per two years. They are mainly working in shops as a salesman. Another two percent (five) respondents will take 179 days in two year. They are also working in shops or conducting their own business. It is the choice of the migrant to decide the number of holidays he or she wants to take. But migrants will take maximum holidays and mostly will give an extension letter to increase the number of holidays at the end of the vacations. According to a respondent, “when leave is granted by the company or Arbab (Sponsor), we will be delighted and can’t not express our happiness. At the same time, the last week of vacation in home town also a horrible experience” (Mathew, 45. male). Single migrants are suffering a lot in host land because of the absence of the family. Respondents are eagerly waiting for each vacation. A migrant with a UAE visa cannot spend more than 180 days outside the country. If it exceeds, their visa will be canceled automatically.

Expectation Before the migration of the UAE and Reality After Migration to the UAE (Table 3.20)

Expectation Before migration	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Reality after migration	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Good job and high salary	149	48%	Expectation was correct	103	34%
Luxury life	05	02%			
Make saving and come back to home soon	150	48%			
No expectation	06	02%	Expectation not fully correct	138	45%
			Expectation was against of reality	63	21%
Total	310	100%	Total	310	100%

Malayalees are migrating to Gulf countries with a lot of expectations and desires and they have given more priority to the financial stability of the family (Zakariah and Rajan 2003). The process of Kerala Gulf migration created a culture of migration among the Malayalees in the last quarter of the 20th century and in the beginning years of the 20th century. This culture highly influenced the Malayalee youth and GCC countries became the dream destination for them. Children dreamed about getting on flights and reaching Dubai. In the present study (Table 3.20), 48 percent (149) of respondents are expecting a good job and high salary with good living conditions. Before migration, respondents inspired by the remittances sent by their relatives and friends from the UAE to home and their way of life in home town. Another important fact is that majority of migrants had planned a short term migration before their first migration. Their main intention was to make money and get settled in their hometowns. But majority of them compelled to continue the process of Gulf migration because of their financial troubles and lack of opportunities in home towns. Forty-eight percent (150) of respondents had expected short term migration, where they planned to earn savings and start their own business in home towns. Mostly things do not work in their favor. In each of their hometown visits, they will plan to terminate Gulf migration, but they can't do it due to various reasons. Two percent

of (five) respondents expected luxury life in the UAE. Dubai is one of the leading tourist places in the world. Another two percent (six) respondents did not have any expectation on migration to UAE. They were confusing about getting a job in the UAE and they did not have contacts in the UAE. Most of the respondents expected a lot before migration. Most migrants do not share their bad experiences in host land, and they would like to share only positive aspects about their job and life of the UAE in home land.

Reality After Migration

The present study shows that respondents' life and job in the UAE were not like what they thought before migration. A respondent stated that "only a Gulf migrant can understand another Gulf migrant's situation" (Razak, 42, male). The present study (Table 3.20) shows that 21 percent (63) of respondents' experience in the UAE was totally against their expectations before they migrated to the UAE. In the experience of food, accommodation, sharing the common toilet, language and working hours, etc. led them to a strange world and they took more time to realize the reality of the host country. Thirty-four percent (103) respondent's expectations were almost realistic, and they had their family and friends in the UAE to support and to help find jobs. Forty-five percent (138) respondent's expectation was not fully correct. But they could adjust the new situation of the UAE. The process Kerala Gulf migration initiated a discussion about opportunities about GCC countries and that focused mainly on infrastructure, the way of development and governing system and salary packages of GCC countries in the public sphere of Kerala society. The first generation of Kerala Gulf migrants did not share their sacrifices and adjustments in the Gulf countries to their families. In the present study, a respondent noted that the first generation of Kerala Gulf migrants would not like to share their difficulties in host land in their home town. Often it led to uncontrolled use of remittances in migrants' households. The massive flow of remittance from the Gulf to Kerala treated Gulf as the heaven of migrants and getting the visa to Gulf countries was considered as

best. But now natives are well bothered about the situation of the host land. Because now migrants are sharing their status in the UAE to family and friends.

Satisfaction on Profession

Satisfaction with a job is an essential aspect of long term migration. Shifting from one profession to another profession is not an easy task in the UAE. Because migrants are contract labors and they have contracts with sponsors (sponsor will be the UAE citizens), without their consent shifting to another profession is impossible. Often this sponsorship system functions as a tool for exploitation of foreign labors. The UAE has been updating rules related to migrant workers from time to time. But sponsors have more right on their workers, and it makes labors more obedient to sponsors. In the present study (Table 3.21), 73 percent (226) of respondents are satisfied with their present job and surroundings. Twenty-seven percent (84) of respondents are not satisfied with jobs and surroundings.

Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction on Profession (Table 3.21)

Satisfaction	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	The Reason Behind Dissatisfaction on Profession	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
			Low wage	23	27%
Satisfied	226	73%	Tough job and circumstances	26	31%
Not satisfied	84	27%	Lack of Annual Leave	20	24%
Total	351	100%	Tastes and job are different	15	18%
			Total	84	100%

Working in a profession without satisfaction is a difficult task. It will lead to problems and social and mental health. Reports show that suicide rates are increasing among the Malayalee expatriates at a significant level. For instance, “In 2018, 51 Indians committed suicide and

among them majorities are Malayalee. The economic crisis, indebtedness, family problem and social media cheatings, etc. are the main reasons behind the suicides” (Nisar, 2019, 12).

Various reasons are noted for the dissatisfaction of Malayalee migrants’ professions in the UAE. Low wages, tough job circumstances, lack of annual leave, etc. are the primary reasons behind Malayalee migrants’ dissatisfaction in the UAE. In the present study (Table 3.21), 18 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with their profession because of their lack of interest in their profession. The respondents did not get expected jobs based on their qualifications and experiences. They are doing jobs that do not match their interests. They are trying to get suitable jobs and but they are not ready to give up the present job. It is a common challenge in the 21st century that job seekers compel to do jobs that may be far away from their qualifications and interests. For example, an engineering graduate can be working in the call center, MBA graduate as an office assistant or an accountant as a salesman, etc. In this study, 27 percent (23) of respondents are struggling with low wages. They were attracted to the high salary package before joining the job, but later salary decreased due to the economic recession and other reasons. Most of the respondents get a salary in mid of the month or after two months. The main competition faced by Malayalee migrants are with the labor migrants from other countries (Sri Lanka, Philippine, Bangladesh and Pakistan) and they are ready to work for a low wage. Malayalee migrants lost their bargaining power in the job market of the UAE. Thirty-one percent (26) of respondents are struggling with tough job circumstances. Often they are compelled to work overtime without any overtime remuneration. Semi-skilled and unskilled labors are struggling with harsh job surroundings. They often face negative approaches from the superiors. Lack of annual leave is the problem of 24 percent (20) of respondents. They have an attractive salary and better working conditions. But the lack of holidays affects them mentally and physically. Without proper leave, it is difficult to work long. Respondents did not get enough time to spend with families and families also disappointed.

Migrants and Family

Respondents Stay With or Without Family in the UAE (Table 3.22)

With or without Family	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Stay with family in the UAE	108	35%
Stay without family in the UAE	202	65%
Total	310	100%

Bringing the family to a migration destination is a challenging process for migrants. The majority of Kerala migrants in the UAE are single migrants without their families. According to Pravasi Malayalee Census (2013), 64 percent of Malayalee working migrants are living in host countries without their family. In which 97 percent are male migrants, and the number of a single female (without family) migrants are 27, 864 (three percent). It is noted that Kerala Gulf migration is not a family-oriented migration. Khadria (2010, p. 67) has pointed out that

“the highly skilled and technically trained professionals remain in great demand in the government departments and public sector enterprises, and they also earn high salaries and attractive emoluments. They also are allowed to bring their families. Children are allowed to stay with parents until their education is completed”.

In the present study (Table 3.22), 65 percent (202) of respondents are living in the UAE without their family. They have the desire to carry their family to the host land at least for a short period. But a lot of factors (Financial crisis, education of the children and the aged parents) stop them from bringing the family to the UAE. Thirty-five percent (108) of the respondents are living with family in the UAE. Most of them are living with wife and children, while their parents and relatives are in home town. The absence of the family makes a lot of social and psychological problems for migrants and also to their families.

Reason Behind Family Away From Respondent (Table 3.23)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Stay with family is very expensive in UAE	81	40%
Caring of Aged parents and grandparents in home town	74	37%
Education of the children in home town	47	23%
Total	202	100%

Kerala Gulf migration is labor-oriented migration and often it is difficult to bring the family with migrants. Only migrants with high levels of income get permission to bring the family to host countries. Expenses of the accommodation are also another problem and respondents are trying to save as much as possible in host land. Bringing the family to the UAE is not an easy task because of the high living expenses in host land. The UAE is providing an excellent education facility but it is also expensive and so that ordinary migrants cannot afford the expense of education. The majority of migrants are not able to take their family with them, because of high housing rent and lack of affordable education facilities for their children. In the present study (Table 3.23), 40 percent of respondents are unable to bring their family because of the high life expense in the UAE. Housing rent is very high in Dubai compared to other places. Saving is the primary intention of the Kerala Gulf migrants, if they carry the family to UAE, the saving will be impossible. Malayalee migrants want to carry the family with them. But they are unable to do because of the economic burden. In the present study, a respondent stated that:

“he is working as a driver in a company, and his monthly earning is around 2000 Dirham, he spends approximately 700 Dirham for food, accommodations and other expenses in a month. He is sharing his room with seven people and he wants to take his family to the UAE. He should

pay more than 15000 Dirham for a single bedroom if he brings the family and so he cannot bring his family to UAE”. (Kunjappu, 46, male)

This is the situation of most of the semi-skilled and unskilled labors in the UAE. Thirty-seven percent (74) of respondents are unable to take the family because of their parents and aged grandparents in home town. They want proper treatment and care and which is possible only in the home town. Often parents are not ready to come to the UAE because of their agriculture and other activities in home town. Their nostalgia for hometown also stops them from moving away from hometown. Twenty-three percent (47) of respondents are bothered about the education of their children. Malayalee migrants prefer to give education, especially higher education to their children in home town. Quality of education and expenses are also essential factors to select a home town for children’s education.

Possibilities in Home Town

Job Opportunities in Kerala (Table 3.24)

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of Respondents
Will accept	245	79%
Will reject	65	21%
Total	210	100%

Kerala Gulf migration is purely contracted labor migration, and they have to return once the contract is completed. Respondents are bothered about the future, and they are trying for a better future by saving and via alternative options in home town. The present situation of the job market is not suitable for foreign labors in GCC countries because of crude oil price crises and localization policies. Seventy-nine percent (245) of respondents are ready to accept job

opportunities in home town. They are skilled, semiskilled and unskilled migrants. These respondents are thinking to find an alternative option. Twenty-one percent (65) of respondents are not interested in working in home town. They have different reasons to justify their decisions. Respondents are skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

Reason Behind Rejection of Job Opportunity in Kerala (Table 3.25)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Could not save any income	27	42%
More expense than income	25	38%
Happy and comfort with job here	10	15%
Not interested in Kerala	03	5%
Total	65	100%

The new generation of Kerala Gulf migrants have tried their best to get a job in home town before their labor migration. They failed to find out suitable jobs and migrated to the UAE. In the present study, respondents don't have any hope to get a job in home town. Five percent (three) of respondents are not interested in working in home town because of the lack of attractive salary. Forty-two percent (27) of respondents are bothered about savings, and they stated that saving is not possible in home town. More expenses than income is another reason that kept away 38 percent of respondents from working in hometowns. Fifteen (10) percent of respondents are comfortable with the present job, and they do not expect the same comfort and facilities in home town

Kerala and Non-Malayalee Migrants

Kerala is filled with non-Malayalee migrant workers in the employment sector, especially in the semi-skilled and un-skilled sector, as Malayalees are migrating to other destinations for employment.

Kerala and Non-Malayalee Migrants (Table 3.26)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Malayalees are bothering about job status in home town	43	14%
Prefer to do white collar job only in home town	25	08%
Employment in Kerala is seasonal, can't depend on it	62	20%
Difference between wage and life expenses	68	22%
Foreign countries are providing good salary than Kerala	112	36%
Total	310	100%

Domestic migrant labors play an essential role in Kerala's jobs market. Their presence is an inevitable source of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor. It is estimated that there are more than 2.5 million non-Malayalee domestic workers in Kerala with an arrival rate of 2.35 Lakhs (Padmanabhan, 2016). They are sending more than ₹ 17, 500 crores remittance to their home states and 75 percent remittances are going to five states namely West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Odisha (ibid). Once Kerala was the sending hub of the migrants, and now it has become the favorite destination of migrants not only from north Indian states but also from Bangladesh and Nepal.

In the present study (Table 3.26), Malayalees are bothered about job status in home town and are not ready to do many works. This is the reason behind the migration of other state's labor migrants to Kerala. It was the response of 14 percent (43) of respondents. In the present study, eight percent (25) responded that preferences of white-collar jobs over other jobs are the reason behind the large scale Malayalee migration to the UAE and it gives enough scope to other state's labor migrants. Once Tamils were very active in the labor market of Kerala. High living

expenses in Kerala compelled them to back to their state. Vast differences between the wages and the living expenses in Kerala are the problem of Tamil workers in Kerala. But these wages are three or four times higher for north Indian migrants compared to wages in home town. Foreign countries especially the UAE is providing a better salary to workers, and an attractive salary package led Malayalee job seekers to Gulf migration. The variation in wages leads Malayalees to another country and non-Malayalees to Kerala.

Migrants, Isolation and Overcome

The Way to Overcome the Missing of Family in Host Land (Table 3.27)

How to Overcome	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Contact with family regularly by different communication way	107	53%
Share feelings with friends	28	14%
Lovely approach of the family members is helpful	67	33%
Total	202	100%

It is discussed that majority of Kerala migration to the UAE does not involve family migration. Sixty-five percent of the present study respondents are living without the family in the UAE. The absence of family creates different psychological problems for migrants. Overcoming the situation of the absence of family is challenging for each respondent. Migrants are trying to overcome the issue in different ways. Migrants are living without the presence of family for continuously one or two years. Fifty-three percent (107) of respondents contact with family members through various communication methods. These methods reduce the distance between migrants and their family members. The first decade of the 21st century witnessed the revolution of different types of communication methods, and it reduced the cost of communication as well. The cost of communication was very high earlier especially in the last quarter of the 20th century. The presence of relatives and friends in the UAE are the relaxation

to 14 percent (28) of respondents. Thirty-three percent of respondents are finding relaxation through the lovely approach of the family members from the homeland.

Last Visit to Home Town (Table 3.28)

Last visit	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Before one month	56	18%
Before two months	69	23%
Before six months	12	04%
Before one year	65	21%
Before two years	92	29%
Before three years	16	05%
Total	310	100%

The majority of Malayalee Gulf migrants get to leave in once in a year or two years. The period from one vacation to next is a crucial time to migrants. In the present study, 18 percent (56) of respondents had visited the home town just before one month. Twenty-three percent (69) respondents visited home town before two months, and four percent (12) of respondents visited the home town before six months. Almost all respondents had visited the home town during their annual vacation. Twenty-one percent (65) of respondents visited home town before one year. Among them some respondents preparing to go on vacation and are waiting for leave approval. Twenty-nine percent (92) of respondents visited home two years ago. Among them, some respondents were granted leave per year, but they did not take the leave because of the economic burdens. Some companies provide one month leave for 11-month works and two months for two years. To get two months of consecutive holidays, some respondents will work two years. Five percent (16) of respondents visited home town before three years. Among them, seven respondents stay with the family in the UAE and the rest of them (nine) are single migrants, and four respondents are married. Economic burdens like indebtedness are the main

reasons behind the long interval between the home visits. Often family in the home town send the list of things they need. Migrants may not be able to purchase and often migrants compel to borrow money for purchasing. One respondent stated that usually, migrants' families do not bother about the hardship of migrants in host land. He or she has to work extra time to repay the borrowing money and it can take months and years.

The Average Interval of Home Visits (Table 3.29)

Average gap	Number of respondents	Percent of the respondents
Once in six months	68	22%
Once in a year	121	39%
Once in two years	96	31%
Once in three years	25	08%
Total	310	100%

The average gap between the home visits of Kerala Gulf migrants depends on different factors like the nature of jobs, earnings of migrants and cost of the air ticket. Migrants have to surrender their passport to the sponsors when joining the job. They can get it back only at the time of vacation. Migrants who are doing their own business can keep their passport with them. They can leave the country on their choice. In the present study (table 3.29), 22 percent of (68) respondents visit home town once in six months. Thirty-nine percent (121) of respondents visit home town once in a year and 31 percent (96) of respondents visit Kerala once in two years. Eight percent (25) of respondents visit home town once in three years. All migrants do not get two way air ticket and salary during the vacation period. Semiskilled and unskilled migrants hence will have to wait for offseason to come to visit the home town. Transportation costs will be comparatively less during the offseason. Regular home town visits among the Malayalee migrants are a new phenomenon. The first generation of Malayalee migrants visited home town

once in four or five years. The second generation of Malayalee migrants visit home town in two years and third generations visit home town once or twice a year.

Way of Communication with Family (Table 3.30)

Communication Method	Number of Respondents	Percent Respondents
Phone	171	55%
Social Media (Facebook, WhatsApp, IMO)	127	41%
Mail	12	04%
Total	310	100%

The most common communication medium between migrants and their family, relatives and friends were mail. Only a small proportion of the first generation of migrants used telephones or telegram. Modern technology of communication reduces the distance between host land and homeland. The development of communication methods has played a vital role in the migration process especially in the case of Kerala Gulf migration. It connected migrants and their families more lively. Before the introduction of phones, mail was a strong communication method between migrants and people in home town. But it took a long time to reach in the hands of their family and friends at different destinations. Though telegram was there, it was not popular like mail. The introduction of landline phones made the revolution in the commutation system and it played a vital role in the history of Kerala Gulf migration. The first decades of 21st century witnessed a revolution in commutation and mobile phones and the internet became accessible to all without any criteria. Migrants used their possibilities to the maximum to connect with home. The changing communication methods from the first generation to the present generation is a visible phenomenon. Once the mail was the main mode of communication and now it shifted to live video chatting.

Changes in transportation also have reduced the distance between home town and host land. At present Kerala has four international airports (Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Calicut and Kannur) well connected through the state. All airports operate several services to the UAE on a daily basis. The average time of the journey from Kerala to the UAE is around four hours. In the present study (table 3.33) 55 percent (171) respondents communicate with families over the telephone. Once it was an expensive method of communication. Now affordable packages are available from Kerala to the UAE. Forty-one percent (127) of respondents contact their friends and family through social media (WhatsApp and Facebook). The availability of high-speed internet with affordable cost helped migrants to use different applications that helped video chatting. Live video call has reduced the distance between respondents and home land to a great extent. Four percent (12) of respondents still use letters to communicate. According to them, “though we can communicate over the phone, the feeling one gets through letter writing is different, especially when writing to a spouse”. The advancement of modern technology in communication reduced the distance between homeland and host land.

Average Gap of Communication with Family (Table 3.31)

Average gap	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Once in a day	105	52%
Twice in a day	63	31%
Once in a week	24	12%
If require	10	05%
Total	202	100%

In the first phase of Kerala Gulf migration, communication to home town was costly and migrants communicated to home town through letter once in two months by post or by sending letters with friends who visit Kerala. They used telephones mostly once in a week for urgent communication. Phone was not popular in Kerala in the last quarter of the 20th century. In a

village, only a few number of houses had landline connection, and neighbors depended on these phones. Now the mode of communication changed, and mobile phone became an inevitable part of human life for communication. The introduction of more methods for communication increased communication between migrants and family. Once communication was minimal because of the expenses and lack of availability of communication methods. In the present study (table 3.31), fifty-two percent (105) of respondents contact family at least once in a day. Now it became a necessary routine to contact once in a day. Thirty-one percent (63) of respondents communicate with family twice in a day. Migrants today are updated about each and every incidence of home town through the communication. Twelve percent (24) of respondents communicate with families once in a week, and five percent (10) of respondents communicate with family if only required and not at a particular time. New methods of communication played a vital role in bridging the gap between migrants and home.

Participation of Home Town Festival (Table 3.32)

Participation	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Yes	167	54%
No	102	33%
Sometimes	41	13%
Total	310	100%

Kerala is the land of different religious and cultural festivals (Eid, Christmas, Onam, Thrissur pooram, Theyyam festival, Palli perunal ,Temple festivals and Nercha) and most of the celebrations are connected to the daily life of Malayalees. Often migrants recall their memories of belongingness through symbols and customs. In Kerala, most of the festivals are based on region and religion, and they have their stories of religious harmony. Often migrants are not able to attend these celebrations because of their expatriation. Live videos and photos make

them also part of the festivals. To attend the regional festival is one of the desires of the migrants because that creates an opportunity to be with friends and family. In the present study (Table 3.33), 54 percent (167) of respondents try to participate in regional festivals. It depends on the availability of leave and the cost of air tickets. Thirty-three percent (102) of respondents have the interest to attend the celebrations. But the nature of their jobs and lack of leaves do not allow them to attend festivals. Thirteen percent (41) of respondents attend festivals if their vacation and festival come at the same time. Migrant's life is a compromise of many things. But memories make more festivals in their mind.

UAE: Hopes and Challenges

Why Kerala Gulf Migrants to the UAE (Table 3.33)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Friendly atmosphere	81	26%
Relaxation in rules	59	19%
Job opportunities and high salary	86	28%
Presence of Family, relatives and friends	84	27%
Total	310	100%

Zachariah and Rajan (2015) noted that among six Gulf countries, Malayalees prefer to go for jobs to the UAE. Statistics from 1998 show that the UAE is the favorite destination of Malayalee migrants. Friendly atmosphere, relaxation in rules, job opportunities, the presence of family, relatives, and friends, high salary, etc. attract more number of Malayalees to the UAE. In the present study (Table 3.34), 26 percent of respondents think that the friendly atmosphere in the UAE attracts more number of Malayalees to the UAE. Compared to other GCC countries, the UAE has a friendly atmosphere towards its foreign labors. Nineteen percent

(59) of respondents appreciate the relaxation of rules in the UAE compare to other GCC countries. Other GCC countries sometimes implement rules and regulations without any consideration to foreign labors. “Nitaqat of Saudi Arabia and Localization policy” of Oman is an example of it. When the UAE implements rules, they provide enough time to foreign labors. According to 28 percent (86) of respondents, they stated that available job opportunities with good salary packages are the reason behind Malayalee’s mobilization to the UAE. In the wake of economic recession also, the UAE provides job opportunities to locals and foreigners through different project like “Global Village and World Expo 2020” etc. Twenty-seven percent (84) respondents think that the presence of family, relatives, and friends are the main reason for the movement of Malayalees migrants to the UAE. These reasons provide economic and mental support to new migrants. Venier (2008, p. 4) has pointed out that “we can confirm that about one inhabitant out of four living in this country is an Indian, and one out of seven is a Malayalee”.

The interest of the Respondents to Carry Relatives and Friends to the UAE for Employment & Number of Respondents who Bring their Relatives and Friends for Employment in the UAE (Table 3.34)

The interest of the Respondents to Carry Relatives and Friends for Employment to the UAE			Number of the Respondents who Carried their Relatives and Friends for Employment in the UAE		
Yes/No	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Yes/No	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Yes	229	74%	Yes	183	59%
No	81	26%	No	127	41%
Total	310	100%	Total	310	100%

“Chain migration” is a unique feature of Kerala Gulf migration. From the first generation to the present generation of Kerala Gulf migrants, chain migration has played an important role to migrate the large number of Malayalees to GCC countries. Chain migration is a process in

which one member in a family migrates, gets settled in the host land and helps others to migrate. With his or her support, the second member migrates and the process continues. The present study (Table 3.34) shows that 74 percent (229) of respondents would like to introduce their friends and relatives to employment opportunities in the UAE. The majority of the respondents migrated to the UAE with the help of friends and relatives. Twenty-six percent (81) of respondents are not interested in bringing their nearest people to the UAE for employment. Often the expectation of new migrants will be high and if the reality is against their hope, it can also affect the relationship among them. Malayalee migrants show interest to bring their family members and friends to the UAE for better opportunities. Fifty-nine percent of respondents (183) have brought their friends and relatives for employment. The newly brought migrants work in a good position. In the UAE, personal influence and recommendations are highly influential factors in the job market. Hence chain migration is more active, and a large number of migrants get job through chain migration. Forty-one percent (127) of respondents did not bring anyone to the UAE for employment. Among them, 46 respondents want to take their relatives and friends for work. They are searching for a suitable visa for them. Respondents have experienced little troubles because of they brought new migrants. Often new migrants did not get the expected salary. Sometimes it can lead to some personal issues. Some respondents will not show interest to take their nearest people to the UAE for employment. The chance of getting a job that matches expectations is 50 percent in the UAE.

Present Circumstances in Job Market of the UAE (Table 3.35)

Present Job Market Situations in the UAE are not Friendly to Migrants	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	177	133	310
Percent of Respondents	57%	43%	100%

Global economic recession and negative growth of crude oil prices in the international market have affected the UAE negatively in their development process, and it also is seen in job market of the UAE. Compared to the past, the present the UAE does not have a friendly atmosphere to foreign labors. Most of the time labors struggle to adjust with income and expenses. The UAE is compelled to implement various economic reformation, like the implementation of GST to recover from the financial crisis. It is not only the problem of the UAE, most of the countries in the world are going through similar situations. Any crisis in the UAE will affect foreign countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the Philippine. Ninety percent of the UAE population is belonging to these countries. In the present study (Table 3.35), 57 percent of respondents worry about the current job market condition. An invisible threat to the job market exists in the UAE because of the economic crisis. Forty-three percent (133) of respondents state that there is no need to worry and the UAE will overcome the present crisis. Many migrants face crisis about their job. They have two options, one is to work within a low salary package and the other is to quit the job. But it is difficult to work with a low salary at present because they have been working with attractive packages and their lifestyle also has changed. Quitting a job without other opportunities is too problematic and challenging.

Future of Kerala Migration in the UAE (Table 3.36)

Future of Migrants	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Hopeful	87	28%
Trouble	223	72%
Total	310	100%

Now GCC countries are struggling with economic recession and unemployment of locals. They are compelled to implement different reformations and legislations to overcome the present crisis. Often new policies and regulations affect foreign laborers negatively. In the case of the

UAE, “World Expo 2020” provides hope for new employment opportunities. At the same time, international migrants consider present job crisis in the UAE as purely temporary and believe that the UAE will overcome the crisis soon. According to the “Q1 2018 Middle East Job Market Survey” conducted by Micheal Page Middle East, “81 percent of respondents think that future of the UAE will be favorable to job seekers and this will be evident within six months. Eighty-three percent of samples are confident that they need less than three months to find a job in the UAE” (Sadaqat, 2018, April 20). The UAE had experienced a lot of economic crises in the past and they solved the crisis with appropriate measures. The UAE is capable to survive the present economic crisis. According to the Domenic Falzarano, operating director at Micheal Page Middle East, “Middles East continues to be an attractive destination for candidates with key opportunities coming up as transformations take place, and the price oil continues to improve” (ibid). The economic crisis due to the low price of crude oil has made some instability in the job market of the UAE. Seventy-two percent (223) of respondents of the present study worry about the future in the UAE. Many companies are compelled to stop projects and they are shifting to third world countries to reduce expenses. Companies and firms are reducing the staff and giving low salaries. Migrants from Philippine, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh are ready to work with a low salary package. Twenty-eight percent (87) of respondents are confident about the future and job opportunities in the UAE. They considered it as a temporary process that can be overcome with time. “More employment opportunities will open up for job seekers in the UAE in the coming new year, as corporates are increasing their company’s growth prospects, according to latest analysis” (Maceda, 2018, October 30). The present situation is not much friendly to labor migrants. If the current crisis continues its consequence will be very high in home towns of migrants.

Decreasing Trend of New Malayalee Migrants to the UAE (Table 3.37)

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Economic recession	95	31%
Lack of Job opportunities	90	29%
Low wage	59	19%
Alternative options in Kerala	66	21%
Total	310	100%

According to the statistics of Kerala Gulf migration from 1980 to 2018, the rate of migration shows a decreasing tendency. Different aspects are influencing the trend of migration to particular destinations, like the wage, availability of opportunities and future of the job market, etc. In the present study, significant reasons behind the decreasing trend of Malayalee migration to the UAE is economic recession, lack of job opportunities and low wage in the UAE and availability of alternative jobs in Kerala. Essa Al Mulla, Chief of National Workforce development, observed that “in the next ten years, 40 percent of present jobs would be disappearing in the job market of the UAE” (Kumar, 2018, October 24). In the present study (table3.37), 31 percent (95) of respondents think that the existing economic recession is one of the reasons behind the decreasing tendency of Malayalee migration to the UAE. Economic recession mainly affected the construction field, and many new projects are canceled. It was the source of large scale job opportunities. Twenty-nine percent (90) of respondents think that lack of job opportunities in the present situation has kept new Malayalee migrants away from the UAE. Skilled job aspirants visit the UAE for job opportunities by visiting visa. But often they failed to find suitable jobs. Now companies are offering a low salary package to fresher employees and laborers from other countries are ready to work with low salary packages. Nineteen (59) percent of respondents stated that salary packages are discouraging Malayalee

migrants from going to the UAE. Twenty-one percent (66) respondents think that new Malayalee skilled and semi-skilled professionals are trying to find jobs in home town. Migration is their last preference. The unemployment rate is very high among educated youths in Kerala. They are searching for better options. But they know that the Gulf is not a better choice.

The Number of Returnees from the UAE is Increasing. The Reason has to Explain from the Opinion of the Respondents. (Table 3.38)

The Reason Behind Large Number of Return Migration	Termination	Voluntary Retirement	Reduction in Salary	Physical and Family Problems	Invisible Localization in Job Market	Total
Number of Respondents	84	30	90	40	66	310
Percent of respondents	27%	10%	29%	13%	21%	100%

It is discussed that Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE is purely on contract base, and they have to return after the completion of the contract. Return migration of Malayalee labor migrants is a serious subject to discuss because of the rehabilitation of them. Kerala Migration Survey 2018 shows that Kerala has 1.2 million (12, 94,796) return migrants in 2018, it was 1.1 million (11, 50,347) in 2011 and 0.73 million (7, 39, 245) in 1998 (Zachariah and Rajan, 2019). From 1998 to 2018 there is an increase of 0.55 million (5,55,552) migrant returnees.. It shows that the number of returnees is growing from time to time. The reason for returning for migrants is different from person to person. Completion of the job contract, the situation of losing the job, low salaries, physical and family problems will accelerate the process of return migration (Musthafa, 2014). Particular jobs are reserved for locals, and now local authorities are bothering about the strict implementation of the policy because of the increasing unemployment rate among the locals. Omair (2010) pointed out that the UAE government has

formulated a localization programme and policies aiming to provide job opportunities for citizens in both public and private sector

In the present study, termination from the job, reduction in salary, widely affected economic recession, physical and family problems and invisible localization policies are leading reasons behind a large number of return migration from the UAE to Kerala. Twenty seven percent (84) of respondents think that the termination of a job is the reason behind the return migration from the UAE. The recent economic crisis (low price the crude oil in international market and global economic recession) compelled the employer to terminate a large number of employees. Voluntary retirement from Gulf migration may be another reason behind the return. Ten percent of respondents think that earnings and savings in the UAE are not possible now because of the high expenses, new rules and regulations. So migrants will choose to settle in home town with earned savings. Reductions in salary are widely noted in the job market. Often laborers are unable to continue with a low wage. Twenty nine percent (90) of respondents think that large scale reduction in salary led to massive scale return migration. The surroundings and climate of the UAE are entirely different from Kerala. Climate will be extreme in all season (winter and summer) in the UAE. Longtime migration in host land will make serious physical problems in migrants especially the aged migrants. Diabetics and high blood pressure are common diseases among the Malayalee migrants. It has been discussed that the majority Malayalee migrants in the UAE are living without a family. Often family requires the presence of migrant. Physical and family problems played an essential role in return migration, in the thoughts of 13 percent (40) of respondents. Oman and KSA visibly implemented the localization policy in the job market. But the UAE did not do it visibly and they are trying to implement by step to step. Twenty-one percent (66) of respondents think that invisible localization policies in the job market lead migrants to return to Kerala. Return migration from the UAE is inevitable. Migrants have prepared to face their life after return migration.

Precautions for Return Migration (Table 3.39)

Precaution for Return Migration	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	108	202	310
Percent of Respondents	35%	65%	100%

Gulf migration and jobs in the UAE are not permanent and migrants will have to return at some point. The necessary precautions and arrangements in the hometown need to be done before returning. It is noted that the majority of migrants spent their earnings in an unproductive manner and after return migration, finally they will struggle for livelihood (Musthafa, 2014). The government of Kerala is preparing different schemes for return migrants helping them to resettle. But the present study shows that majority migrants did not join the welfare scheme of the government. Migrants' life in both home town and host land is entirely different. It is not easy to mingle with home and home town after long Gulf migration. It will take time to adjust to the lifestyle of the home town. Musthafa KT (2018, p. 3092) has rightly observed that "occupation after return migration is an important factor. Often returnees are unable to find out appropriate jobs or taking time to find out jobs, this situation creates tensions mentally and economically and leads to depression". The majority of the respondents in this study opined that return migrants are facing serious alienation from society and family, and it will lead them to serious physical and mental problems. The study (Table 3.39) shows that 35 percent (108) of respondents have prepared for return migration, and they are saving for return migration by doing things like buying lands and invests money in small business, etc. But 65 percent (202) respondents did not think about life after return migration. Firstly they have to overcome the present crisis, then only they can think about the future. All are aware that life will be more

complicated in home town without enough savings after return migration. Present expenses and responsibilities do not allow the majority of the respondents to save money.

Malayalee Gulf Migrants and the Government

Malayalee Gulf migrants are the asset of both state and central government. Because they are contributing to the development of the country in the form of remittances. So the government has to take necessary steps for the welfare of Malayalee Gulf migrants. “Over the last decade, while the reactionary approach to dealing with issues of workers in the Gulf has continued, a foundation has gradually been set for a more comprehensive strategy by the government of India” (Pethiyagoda, 2017, November 21). As a migrants, they have played a better role in the development of the homeland. So the response of the government to migrants is a vital aspect. Often overseas population has been working as an economic backbone of motherland through remittances. The states like Kerala have a large number of overseas populations in the Middle East and often their primary foreign policy concern is their Diaspora affairs (ibid).

Response on the Activities of the Government for Migrants (Table 3.40)

Response of the Governments	Both State and Central Governments are Active	Both State and Central Governments are not Active	Central Government is Active	State Government is Active	Total
Number of respondents	56	164	25	65	310
Percent of respondents	18%	53%	08%	21%	100%

In the present study (Table 3.40), 53 percent (164) of respondents stated that both state and central governments are not active in the subject of migrants. They are trying to compare the service of other countries to their migrants. Countries like Sri Lanka, the Philippine and Bangladesh are trying to solve their migrant’s problem at the maximum level. But often the

Indian government is not able to do necessary things. Eighteen percent (56) respondents of the present study responded that both central and state governments are active in the matter of labor migrants and they are trying to do their interferences in possible ways. Now both governments, state and central are keeping a good diplomatic connection with the UAE and they have formulated different diplomatic treaties between countries regarding labor migration. Eight percent (25) of respondents stated that the central government is active, but state government is inactive. At the same time, 21 percent (65) responded that the state government is working for its labor migrants within their limits. The finding is that both central and state governments are trying to work for migrants. Often activities of the government did not reach at root level especially among ordinary labor migrants. The home government cannot interfere with the subject of foreign countries. But at the diplomatic level, both countries can discuss the topic and take appropriate actions. “For the decades, the response of the government of India to the problems of migrant workers is insufficient and piecemeal. There have been signs of changes in recent years as new incentives have emerged encouraging India to do more to protect migrant workers” (Pethiyagoda, 2017, November 21).

Knowledge About Government Welfare Scheme for Pravasi Communities (Table 3.41)

Knowledge About Government Welfare Scheme	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	143	167	310
Percent of Respondents	46%	54%	100%

The government of Kerala has formulated different welfare programmes for its Non-Residents Keralites’ (NRK).

“The NRK Welfare Fund Act 2008 has implemented some welfare schemes for the assistance of the NRK, such as different pension schemes including family pension scheme, Pension

scheme for invalids, and other schemes like scheme for financial assistance to dependents of a deceased member, scheme for financial assistance for medical treatment, accident-cum- death insurance scheme, scheme for assistance for marriage of daughters of members, scheme for payment of financial assistance for maternity, scheme for payment of educational grant, scheme for payment of loan for housing and self-employment” (Government of Kerala, 2014).

But the majority of Malayalee migrants especially in the UAE is unaware of this scheme. In the present study (Table 3.41), 54 percent (167) of respondents stated that they did not know about the welfare scheme implemented for NRK. Forty-six percent (143) of respondents stated that they had heard some scheme for Pravasi but not the details. The important thing is that only a few are aware of the welfare scheme implemented for NRK. The government of Kerala is advertising about the welfare scheme for NRK in a different medium. But it does not reach the root level.

Welfare Scheme of the State Government (Table 3.42)

Joined the Welfare Scheme of the state Government	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	17	126	143
Percent of Respondents	12%	88%	100%

It was discussed that the Government of Kerala has implemented various welfare programmers for NRK. It is very relevant because the majority of Kerala migrants are labor migrants. So any assistance from the government side will be highly appreciable. P Sathasivam, former honorable governor of Kerala delivered a speech in Kerala Assembly that “my government is committed to the welfare of millions of Pravasi Malayalee. The one-time payment five lakh will be deposited with Kerala Infra Structure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for financing infrastructure projects” (Ians, 2019, January 25).

The government is advertising about the welfare programmes through newspapers, channels and social media to reach the roots level. But the number of people registered for the welfare scheme is very less compared to their actual number. In the present study (Table 3.42), out of 143 respondents, 88 percent of respondents did not join in any welfare scheme for the NRK. They don't have enough information about the systems and procedures of registration. Twelve percent (17) of respondents have registered in welfare schemes with the help of Malayalee social workers in the UAE. Now Malayalee migrants are not interested in joining welfare schemes, and they do not understand the benefits of welfare schemes that might come in the future. The Malayalee cultural associations are trying to make awareness among the Malayalee migrants about the benefits of welfare schemes in the UAE. They are taking the initiation of registering Malayalee migrants to welfare schemes.

Assistance From Central and State Government (Table 3.43)

Assistance from Central and State Government	Never Apply for Assistance	Applied. But did not Get Assistance	Total
Number of Respondents	288	22	310
Percent of Respondents	93%	07%	100%

To register migrants in different welfare schemes is a challenge to governments. The welfare scheme of Kerala migrants is a comparatively new initiation of the government. But it already had enough time to reach at the hands of beneficiaries. In the present study (Table 3.43), no respondents get any assistance from the government side as NRK. Among them, 93 percent (288) of respondents did not apply for any scheme of the government of Kerala. Seven percent (22) of respondents applied for welfare schemes and are expecting to get benefits. At present they have not received any assistance through welfare schemes.

Knowledge About NORKA Roots (Table 3.44)

Knowledge About NORKA ROOTS	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	251	59	310
Percent of Respondents	81%	19%	100%

NORKA Roots is a nodal agency of the government of Kerala to deal with the matters of NRK. Mainly, the Government of Kerala operates all activities for its overseas population through NORKA Roots. NORKA Roots are trying their best to reach the overseas people by introducing different activities to help NRK. Eighty one percent (251) of respondents in the present study are aware of the NORKA Roots. But 19 percent (59) of respondents do not have any idea about NORKA Roots. Among 81 percent of respondents, the majority did not know about NORKA Roots genuinely. They know that it is the government agency to working for Pravasi Malayalee.

Pravasi Identity Card (Table 3.45)

Pravasi Identity Card has Taken	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	96	214	310
Percent of Respondents	31%	69%	100%

Pravasi Identity card is a scheme of the government of Kerala for its overseas population, the validity of the card is three years and it is renewable. The card provides safety to the cardholder in host county in the absence of required documents in emergencies. The basic criteria to apply for Pravasi Identity Card is that the applicant should be a migrant with a valid visa at the time

of application. The applicant has to pay 300 rupees as proceeding charges. The cardholder will get insurance coverage up to three lakhs during the period of card validity. The applicant can apply online and offline from anywhere in the world. The main intention behind the introduction of Pravasi Identity Card is that the government will get the actual number of NRK through the registration and it will help them to prepare policies for them in the future (<https://norkaroots.org/nrk-id-card>)

In the present study (Table 3.45), 31 percent (96) of respondents have taken the Pravasi Identity Card. Respondents stated that it took more than one year to receive an identity card. But no one gets the benefit of the cards. Sixty-nine percent (214) of respondents did not apply for cards. Once Malayalee cultural associations arranged for registration of Pravasi Identity Card in different parts of the UAE. Migrants familiar with cultural association applied for Pravasi Identity Card through them. The majority did not use this opportunity. Malayalam radio channels are profoundly influencing media among the Malayalee in the UAE for entertainment and information. Malayalam radio channels has given very much importance to Pravasi Identity Card among Malayalee migrants. The majority of respondents thought that they could apply for the card when they visit Kerala next time. Often they could not do it in home town because of their busy schedule, and forgetfulness.

Engagement of NORKA Roots in NRK Matters (Table 3.46)

Satisfied with the Activities of NORKA Roots	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	164	146	310
Percent of Respondents	53%	47%	100%

Pinarayi Vijayan , present Chief Minister of Kerala and Chairman of NORKA Roots, said that “Contribution of the Non-Residents Keralites towards the socio-economic growth of Kerala is remarkable. The key objective of NORKA Roots is to ensure NRK welfare and to serve as a single kiosk for all information about them” (<https://norkaroots.org>). The information from the NORKA Roots website shows that 11.6 million Keralites have utilized the services of NORKA Roots by 8th March 2019 (ibid). NORKA Roots is planning to implement different investment schemes for NRK, and they have approached different agencies working in this field to prepare a master plan (Joseph, 2019, January 28). NORKA Roots is trying to interfere the problems of NRK in a possible manner. But they have limitations because of the large number of NRK populations across the world. In the present study (Table 3.48), 53 percent (164) of respondents are satisfied with the activities of NORKA Roots. They know the activities of the NORKA Roots by media. Media are reporting the various interference of the NORKA Roots in multiple issues of the NRK. But 47 percent (146) of respondents are not satisfied with the engagements of NORKA Roots. According to them, often NORKA Roots activities are in media only not in the real world. A respondent stated that “NORKA Roots has to work beyond the advertisements. The problems and requirements of Malayalee migrants are beyond the estimated calculations especially in GCC countries” (Byju, 37, male). NORKA Roots is trying to serve overseas Malayalee in a better way. But still, they have to handle a lot of issues that are directly and indirectly related to overseas Malayalee. Migrants have to know about the different services provided to them by the government. Even though advertisements are there, Malayalee migrants have to seek the facilities and schemes of the government which provide for them. Migrants have to utilize government schemes at the maximum level. Procedures to apply for the various project should be simple and direct from the government side.

Luxury Life and Malayalee Gulf migrants

There is an increasing tendency of luxury life in Malayalee Gulf migrant families. In the present condition, the Gulf job market is going through crises and challenges. Luxury tendencies among the Gulf migrant's families like luxury marriages, luxury homes, and highly expensive vehicles are increasing. If it is not controlled correctly, consequences will be unpredictable. Abdul Kader (2013, August 10) has rightly pointed out that "migrant's income from working so many years in the Gulf is spent mainly for three things, constructing a big house, extravagant wedding ceremonies (female family members wedding involves huge dowries), and other dowries like the car, jewelry, and cloths". The show-off culture among the Gulf migrants and their families have increased at a high level. But now Pravasi cultural associations realize the problem of "show off culture" and they are trying to make awareness among the Malayalee migrants. In an interview with Anwar Neha, President of KMCC, Dubai reveals that "each civilization has its own up and down mobility. Like this, luxuries among the migrants and their family will lead to the collapse of their economic balance mainly developed from Gulf remittances".

Often family members are unaware of the risk taken by migrants to earning. "The Gulf migrant workers send money for such luxury purposes while they live here in the Gulf with a lot of hardship. Their family members who sleep in separate bedrooms with attached bathrooms in the huge houses generally do not know that their breadwinner sleeps on the bunk bed and waits in a queue to use the bathroom in shared accommodation" (Abdul Kader, 2013, August 10). In the present study (Table 3.47), 89 percent (276) of respondents agree that luxury tendencies have increased among the Gulf migrant households. Most of the migrant households are economically settling by Gulf remittances. So their lifestyle is changing automatically, and the culture of imitation is spreading among them gradually. Often migrants fail to interfere with the economic activities of the family. Eleven percent (34) of respondents are rejecting the

statement of luxury life among the migrant household. According to them, people are living according to their economic stability, and it is purely based on their hard work. They have the right to spend their money in their way. Often outsiders called it a luxury or uncontrolled consumption. But it is a purely personal choice. Lifestyle in the migrant's household has changed a lot because of the Gulf remittances. But it affected the economic balance of society in some manner.

Luxury Life Among the Gulf Migrants' Families (Table 3.47)

Luxury Tendencies have Increased Among Gulf Migrants Families	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	276	34	310
Percent of Respondents	89%	11%	100%

Spending Remittances in Unproductive Manner

There is criticism among the locals that Gulf migrants are spending money in an unproductive manner like spending on construction of luxury homes and buying luxury vehicles. Gulf migration is purely a temporary process and they have to return when the contract gets expired. So it is essential to spend savings productively. It is noted that Gulf migrants are spending more money on the construction of big houses, buying luxury vehicles and conducting marriage functions.

Remittance Consumptions in Unproductive Manner (Table 3.48)

Gulf Migrants are Spending Money in Unproductive Sector	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	220	90	310
Percent of Respondents	71%	29%	100%

In the present study, 71 percent (220) of respondents think that Gulf migrants are spending money in an unproductive manner. They are finding happiness in constructing big houses according to the latest trends and buying luxury cars. Often they find financial sources through bank loans or by borrowing money from friends and relatives. They are confident that they can repay the money through remittances. But sometimes they fail to do. The present study (table 3.48) shows that 29 percent (90) of respondents state that all migrants are not well settled through Gulf migration and remittances. A lot of migrants are struggling to send a minimum amount to home. Often they are struggling to repay their first migration expenses. It may be home loan or indebtedness to friends and relatives. Constructing a house is a dream of Malayalee migrants. Often its size and nature of the home depending on their earnings. But some respondents are sending more money than what they can afford with their income, to build big luxury houses. It will make some troubles in future life. According to respondents, the majority of migrants are starting the construction of homes without any savings. They expect to survive on future earnings from their jobs. It is an undeniable fact that employment in the UAE is a temporary one and migrants have to leave any time. A lot of migrants are struggling to finish their home construction because of financial instability. It is a trap made by themselves. Office bearers of Malayalee cultural associations state that no one learns lessons from the tragic experiences of other migrants.

Gulf Migrants and Philanthropy

Participation of Welfare Activities in Home Town (3.49)

Participation of welfare activities in home town	Yes	No	Total	Donator to charity	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	180	130	310	Number of Respondents	301	09	310
Percent of respondents	58%	42%	100%	Percent of Respondents	97%	03%	100%

The unique feature of Kerala Gulf migration is the benevolence among the Malayalee migrants and munificence to others also. Gulf Malayalees are very active in charity work at home town. Natives in homeland usually depend on Gulf migrants to fulfill the expense of their daughter's or sister's marriages, constructing homes, and expenses of treatment of patients. Usually, people communicate their needs to Gulf migrants by letters and phone calls. The revolution of social media has reduced the distance between Kerala and the UAE. It plays an essential role in the welfare activities of the Gulf Malayalees. In the present study (Table 3.49), 58 percent (180) of respondents are active workers of the welfare activities in home town. They are raising funds for different purposes in the home town among the Malayalees and non-Malayalee migrants. Often migrants from other places are also contributing. Forty-two percent (130) of respondents do not directly involve welfare activities, but most of them contribute economically.

Malayalee Gulf migrant's hands are visible in the welfare and charity activities of the home town. Now migrants very active in WhatsApp and Facebook groups. WhatsApp groups are playing an important role to connect Malayalee migrants to home town actively. Often funds for charity raises through WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Social media help to know the requirements of home towns and native people. Now lots of WhatsApp groups are working among Malayalee migrants on different purposes. Social media groups are very active in home town and host land. Now social media groups are trending among the Malayalee Gulf migrants. Often these groups are helping to raise funds for required people especially from migrants in GCC countries. According to the present study (Table 3.49), 97 per (301) cent of respondents are contributing to the welfare activities of home town economically. The amount will be different from person to person and purposes. Mutual helping is very visible among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. And it is also visible in charity activities in home town. Gulf remittance is an inevitable source of welfare activities in Kerala.

Findings and Conclusion

Kerala Migration to the UAE is a male-dominated process, and the proportion of women migration is very less. The majority of male respondents are married after migration while a large portion of female migrants are married before migration. Respondents are in the age group of 25 to 50 and the majority of respondents belong to a nuclear family. The religious backgrounds of respondents are mainly Islam, Hindu and Christianity with more respondents belonging to the Muslim community. Respondents are from all parts of Kerala except Idukki district, and Malappuram has the most number of respondents. Respondents are skilled and semi-skilled and they are educationally qualified, and only three percent have below matriculation qualification. Malayalee migration networks in the UAE play an important role in Kerala-UAE migration and the majority got visas through the support of family members and friends working in the UAE. Seventy-five percent of respondents have migrated to the UAE in 21st century and they belong to second and third generation of Kerala Gulf migrants.

A small portion of respondents had migrated to other GCC countries before migration to the UAE. The majority of respondents are working in the semi-skilled and skilled sector. The majority of the respondents get ₹ 28000- 56000 as salary per month and 55 percent of respondents send ₹ 5000 to 10000 to home in a month. The average vacation of the respondents is 60 days in two years. Good job and attractive salary were the expectations of migrants before migrating to the UAE. But the reality was not according to the expectation. Twenty-seven percent of respondents are not happy with their present job. Sixty-five percent of respondents are living in the UAE without their families. A large portion (79 percent) of respondents are ready to accept job opportunities in Kerala. Malayalees are not prepared to do jobs in the home town because of the nature and status of the job and at the same time they are willing to do any work in abroad. It led to a large number of migration of laborers from other states to Kerala. Respondents are suffering from psychological problems because of the absence of family. They

are trying to visit home town likely and often economic burdens are obstacles to their frequent visits. Advancement of modern technology in communication influenced respondents and it made their frequent communication with family in several other ways without physically visiting them. Often respondents are not able to attend festivals in home town because of the nature of their jobs. Surrounding and opportunities have made the UAE as a favorite destination of migration. Respondents would like to bring their relatives and friends for employment, and many respondents have already taken their friends and relatives to the UAE.

Fifty-seven percent of respondents are worried about their jobs because of the economic recession and the decline of oil prices. But 47 percent of respondents are confident that the UAE will recover from its financial crisis. Economic recession, lack of job opportunities, low wages, etc. led to a decrease in the rate of Malayalee migration to the UAE. Return migration among Malayalee migrants in the UAE is increasing because of different aspects. The majority of the respondents did not take any precautions to face the situation of return migration. Both central and state government are working for migrants. But often it did not adequately communicate with migrants. The government has to work for migrants actively. Usually, the flow of a large number of remittances led to the luxury culture among the Gulf households. Often migrants are using their earnings in an unproductive manner. Malayalee migrants are very active in the welfare activities of the home town.

The UAE is the most preferred destination for Malayalee migrants with a large number of migrants. But changes are happening in the pattern and trends of migration from time to time because of the various factors discussed above. The massive scale of return migration from host land to homeland will make many socio-economic and political problems which will lead to a big crisis. The present job market of the UAE is not favoring foreign laborers. Chain migration played a vital role in Kerala Malayalee's migration to the UAE. But the present crisis in the job market of UAE is influencing the trend of the movement of Malayalees to the UAE.

It is the right time for migrants and migrant's aspirants to think about alternative options of employment instead of migrating to the UAE. The next chapter is a detailed description of the status and surroundings of Malayalee migrants in the UAE. It will also discuss the socio-economic, political, and cultural background of Malayalee migrants in the UAE.

Social Life of Kerala Gulf migrants in the UAE

Introduction

There are two possibilities for labor migrants to stay in host land for a long time. First being any favorable situation to migrants in host land and the second being compulsory situations in which the migrants have to stay in host land due to the absence of alternative options. The UAE is a favorite destination for migration across the world. “Dubai is like a bus, an air conditioned-bus. Get on the bus, don’t bother if you get a seat or not. Then gradually you will settle down, things will move on” (Vora, 2008, p. 380). The socio-cultural and political circumstances of host land are significant aspects in the success of every migration. Kerala has been in a long term connection with GCC countries and has had at least 50 years of migratory relationship with the UAE. Malayalees have chosen the UAE as a favorite destination of migration. The socio-cultural, political and economic aspects of the UAE have influenced the Malayalee migrants to stay in the UAE. One of the respondents stated that “Al Karama” should be considered as the 15th district of Kerala. It has the largest Malayalee community in Dubai with several Malayalee restaurants and shops. All the Kerala food items are available here in Al Karama. Highly qualified and skilled labor enjoy an appropriate social status in the UAE. The surroundings of the semi-skilled and unskilled migrants are not as friendly. “Large proportions of semi-skilled and unskilled Indian laborers are suffering harsh conditions in Gulf and often they are denied even basic labor rights” (Pethiyagoda, 2017, November 21). This chapter is mainly looking towards the socio-cultural and political status of Malayalee migrants in the UAE. It also discusses the Kerala women migrants, to the UAE and their status in host land.

Socio-Cultural and Political Circumstances of Kerala Migrants in the UAE

The socio-economic, political, cultural and geographical surroundings of the UAE are entirely different from the surroundings of Kerala. The UAE is an Islamic state, and they have their

own rules and regulation for the smooth functioning of the nation. The circumstances of the UAE are new experiences for Malayalee migrants. And it is difficult to live in a new circumstance entirely different from their home town experiences. But the history of Kerala Gulf migration shows that Malayalee migrants assimilated the culture of host land in a given time and made a base for Malayalees in the UAE. Two aspects are crucial in Kerala Gulf migration: first, the natives of the UAE received Malayalee migrants with all respect, and secondly, Malayalee migrants adjusted with the natives of the UAE quite well. Malayalee migrants' capabilities and dedication to work made them different from other foreign workers. So it is essential to analyze the different factors which directly connects to the Malayalee migrants' life in the UAE.

Isolation as a Foreigner in the UAE (Table 4.1)

Isolation From Others as a Foreigner	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	43	267	310
Percent of Respondents	14%	86%	100%

Kerala Gulf migration is a male-oriented process and in which male members of the family migrated to the Gulf while their family stayed in home town. Often this situation of having to stay away from family led to much mental illness like depression, anxiety, and other mental related diseases. In this context, two aspects have to be discussed about the present study. Firstly the isolation of Malayalee migrants from their family and homeland has to be discussed and secondly, their isolation in the UAE has to be examined. The nature of the job and tough circumstances of the host land will also lead to isolation from the surroundings of the host land. In the present study, 86 percent (267) of respondents replied that they don't have the feeling of isolation as a foreigner in the UAE. But 14 percent (43) respondents stated that they felt isolated as a foreigner and that meant to be alert at all times, making them realize the value of citizenship

of a nation. These respondents revealed that they have to carry around their documents everywhere, to be prepared to show whenever the authority asked for it.

Discrimination to Malayalee Migrants as a Foreigner in the UAE (Table 4.2)

Facing Discrimination as a Foreigner	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	19	291	310
Percent of Respondents	06%	94%	100%

The discrimination and isolation in host land towards foreign laborers will negatively affect the flow of migrations and the migration process won't continue in the long term. Neha Vora (2008, p. 382) has rightly pointed out that "In fact, many people told me that it was precisely the lack of difference between India and Dubai that made it a favorable destination for migration". Now the UAE is treated as a world labor migration destination, and people from all over the world are working and living in the UAE. "Eighty-eight percent of the UAE population was born in another country, and the vast majority of migrants in the UAE are economic migrants, not refugees, says a World Economic Forum Report" (Khaleej Times, 2017, May 17). It shows that some positive elements are working in favor of labor migrants in the UAE. In the present study, 94 percent (291) of respondents do not feel any discrimination as a foreigner in the UAE. One respondent even stated that the UAE gives more importance to the ability of the individual more than his or her nationality and religion etc. At the same time, six percent (19) of respondents are feeling discriminated against as a foreigner. Mike Davis (2006, p. 65) pointed out that "the UAE is also a miniature Raj in a more important and notorious aspect. The great mass of the population are South Asian contract laborers, legally bound to a single employer and subject to totalitarian social controls".

Role of Profession in Gaining Social Status in the UAE (4.3)

Profession Plays an Important Role in Gaining Social Status in Host Land	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	124	186	310
Percent of Respondents	40%	60%	100%

The nature of the job is a critical aspect of the host land. Unskilled workers do not get consideration while skilled and semi-skilled laborers do. The nature of employment plays a vital role in the UAE. In the present study (Table 4.3), 40 percent (124) respondents stated that the nature of the profession plays an essential role in gaining any social status in the UAE. Membership in Malayalee cultural associations and office bearer posts of these associations are also based on the economic status of the migrants. But 60 percent (186) of respondents state that all are engaged in different types of jobs and all the jobs have their own importance. These respondents don't think that jobs play a significant role in the social status of migrant laborers in the UAE and membership in the cultural association is not based on employment and salary. Majority of the Malayalee migrants do not have time to spend in extra activities. So they won't attend the programs of cultural associations. The important aspect is that the most Malayalee migrants are not bothered about their social status in the UAE and they are only trying to make maximum savings. Khadria (2010, p.67) rightly observed that "life, in general, is comfortable only for professionals and white-collar workers, and they are the ones who maintain contacts with compatriots and nationals, form associations and participate in socio-cultural activities".

Advantages and Disadvantages as Malayalee in the UAE

Advantages and Disadvantages as Malayalee Migrants in the UAE (Table 4.4)

Advantage as Malayalee Migrant	Yes	No	Total	Disadvantage as Malayalee Migrant	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	167	143	310	Number of Respondents	19	291	310
Percent of Respondents	54%	46%	100%	Percent of Respondents	06%	94%	100%

In a recent study, 54 percent (167) of respondents think that Malayalee labor migrants have some advantages among the natives of the UAE. Natives consider Malayalee migrants as more effective and hardworking with the ability to fulfill tasks in a given time. But 46 percent (143) of respondents state that they don't have any advantage as Malayalee migrants. Respondents argued that they get appreciation if they work properly. From where they come does not matter at all.

Malayalees are visible in all areas of the UAE and almost all working sectors. Natives have a positive approach to Malayalee migrants and they expect good results from them. Only six percent (19) of respondents suffer disadvantages because of the Malayalee identity. They said that owners expect more perfection and are always trying to compare their work with the previous Malayalee employees. Ninety-four percent (291) of respondents did not experience any disadvantages as a Malayalee migrant laborer in the UAE. From the discussion with the UAE citizens, it is understood that they are happy with Malayalee migrant laborers and are impressed with their performance and dedication to work. But at the same the UAE citizens are bothered about the payment of Malayalee laborers. They know that Malayalees receive more remuneration than other nationalities in the same job. Malayalee migrants are always worried about the basic required facilities of the employee such as food and accommodation

which turns out to be expensive for the employer and often leading to the appointment of other nationalities with low remuneration for the work.

Relationships of Malayalee Migrants in the UAE

Relation with Other Foreigners and Relation with the UAE Citizens (Table 4.5)

Relation With Other Foreign Migrants	Friendly Relation	Just a Relation	Purpose Base Relation	Total	Relation with UAE Citizens	Friendly Relation	Purpose base Relation	Total
Number of Respondents	254	20	36	310	Number of Respondents	198	112	310
Percent of Respondents	82%	06%	12%	100%	Percent of Respondents	64%	36%	100%

UAE is the land of migrants from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, the Philippine, and Thailand, etc. It is an ocean of migrants belonging to different religions, languages, and regions. So mingling with other nationals is an inevitable aspect in daily life. Often migrants are interdependent with each other for their smooth living in the UAE. They would have to share rooms, a kitchen, and even workplaces. So beyond the boundary of nationality, strong relations formulate between migrants from different nations.

Malayalee migrants keep a good relationship with other foreigners in the UAE. In the present study, 82 percent (254) of respondents are maintaining an intimate connection with foreigners and six percent (20) of respondents hold just a relationship only. Twelve percent (36) of respondents keep just a need base relationship with foreigners particularly as part of their job.

Relation with the UAE citizens

Ninety percent of the UAE's population are foreigners, mainly from South Asian countries. (Vora, 2010). Foreign laborers have contact with the UAE citizens because of the "Kafala" (sponsorship) system.

“Under the Kafala system, a migrant worker’s immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor (kafeel) for their contract period. The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel. The worker must be sponsored by a kafeel to enter the destination country and remains tied to this kafeel throughout their stay” (<https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/132/PB2.pdf>).

Only the UAE citizens can take visa for foreign workers. The UAE citizens have a good relationship with foreign laborers and vice versa. But often relationships depend on the skill, earning and qualification of migrants in host land. Semi-skilled and unskilled workers are always out of the framework. The present study shows that (Table 4.5), 64 percent (198) of respondents keep a friendly relation with locals. Respondents also mingle with other foreigners than citizens. Thirty-six percent (112) from the present study revealed that they have only a purpose-based relationship with the UAE citizens. Respondents think that an equal distance with locals is essential in the long term migration process.

Approaches of the UAE Citizens to Malayalee Migrants (Table 4.6)

Approaches of UAE Citizen to Migrants	Friendly Approach	Approach to Fulfill their Needs	Total
Number of Respondents	273	37	310
Percent of Respondents	88%	12%	100%

The presence of large scale international migrants in the UAE shows their hospitality and tolerance towards foreigners. Neha Vora (2010, p. 46) rightly “In Dubai, where foreigners are estimated to make up close to 90 percent of the population, the division between citizen and foreigner seems at first glance to be very rigid, defining the daily lives of the city’s resident”. The UAE is considered as one of the favorite destinations for labor migrants. Beyond job

opportunities, other social factors like approaches of locals to foreigners may influence the acceleration of migration to the UAE. In the present study (Table 4.6), 88 percent (273) of respondents are stating that UAE citizens keep a friendly approach to Malayalee migrants. Respondents didn't feel any differences in native's approach to foreign laborers. Twelve percent (37) of respondents are stating that natives contact foreign laborers only for some definite purposes. Beyond the fulfillment of their requirements, they don't have any relationship with migrant workers, especially with semiskilled and unskilled laborers.

Obstacles to Interact with the UAE Citizens (Table 4.7)

Obstacles to Interact with the UAE Citizens	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	46	264	310
Percent of Respondents	15%	85%	100%

The migration exchanges cultural aspects from sending area to receiving area and vice versa. Language is an essential tool to communicate with each other. Hindi is one of the familiar languages in the UAE, and natives also speak Hindi. Often the language is an obstacle for migrants to interact with natives. But migrants are trying to learn Arabic as part of their existence within a short period of their migration in the UAE. The majority of Malayalee migrants are also learning Hindi after they migrated to the UAE. In the present study (table 4.7), 85 percent (264) of respondents don't have any obstacles to mingle with natives. Fifteen percent (46) of respondents have some barriers to mingle with natives. Often the language and nature of the job pose as a constant obstacle to mingle with natives.

Malayalee Migrants and the UAE Festivals

Participation in the UAE Festivals (Table 4.8)

Participation in the UAE Festivals	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	282	28	310
Percent of Respondents	91%	09%	100%

The UAE has different festivals and celebrations and it is very popular among locals and nationals. “The home to many global cities of the Middle East, there is a slew of different kinds of cultural and religious festivals in the UAE that should be witnessed while holidaying at this city of Sheikhs” (Anand, 2018, October 22). The UAE has a lot of socio-cultural, religious and commercial festivals like “UAE Awafi Festival, National Day Festival, Eid Al Fitr, Eid Al Azha, Prophet Birthday, Dubai Shopping Festival, Dubai World Cup, Dubai Marathon, and Dubai Jaz Festival, etc” (Anand 2018, October 22; Joe, 2018, April 23). All the festivals happen annually, and a significant level of participation is a unique feature of these celebrations. In the present study (4.7), 91 percent (282) of respondents actively participate in the festivals in the UAE. Participants are mostly foreigners, and there is no restriction to attend the festivals. Malayalees have a lot of festivals in Kerala regionally as well as generally. Now they actively participate in the celebrations of host land in the memory of homeland festival. But nine percent (28) of respondents do not participate in the festivals. They have the desire to celebrate, but they do not get time after their duty and quite often the participation in these celebrations is quite expensive. Binod Khadria (2010) observed that often unskilled and semi-skilled laborers couldn’t attend the festival of host land because of their nature of the job and financial status.

Obstacles to Mix with Malayalee Migrants (Caste, Politics and Wealth) (Table 4.9)

Obstacles to Mix with Malayalee Migrants	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	19	291	310
Percent of Respondents	06%	94%	100%

Caste, politics and economic status, etc. are very visible in all societies and often act as an obstacle to mix. The UAE is also not free from this social injustice. Often association and get together programs are formulated by members of a particular caste or politics or wealth group in the host land. This type of obstacle is comparatively invisible among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. In the present study (table 4.8), 94 percent (291) of respondents say that there are no obstacles like caste, politics and economic status while mingling amongst the Malayalee migrants in UAE. Political discussions and debates are more common in the UAE than Kerala and happen by keeping mutual respect and understanding of each other. Respondents in the present study state that they don't feel economic status as an obstacle to mingle with each other in their friendship circle which includes unskilled, semi-skilled and highly professional Malayalees from different parts of Kerala. According to Anwar Naha, the President of Kerala Muslim Cultural Center, Dubai observed that visibly there are no obstacles to mingle among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE based on caste, religion, politics and wealth. In the present study, six percent (19) of respondents state that often individual earnings become the obstacle to mingle with other Malayalee migrants. Generally, barriers are not noted to mingle among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. But it cannot be said that there are no obstacles to mingling among the Malayalee migrants. Caste, religion, politics and wealth may influence the relationship of Malayalee labor migrants, but it is not visible.

Religious Practices and Malayalee Migrants in the UAE

Obstacles to Observe Religious Practices (Table 4.10)

Obstacles to Observe Religious Practices	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	03	307	310
Percent of Respondents	01%	99%	100%

The UAE is an Islamic state, but they accommodate other religious believers also. UAE has given permits to construct temples and churches in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. They also provide facilities to other religious believers to observe their religious practices. The UAE has a religious policy and within the policy, they consider other religious believers also. “The Middle East’s first traditional Hindu stone temple to be built in Abu Dhabi will feature intricate architecture and delicate carvings that will retell the ancient stories from Indian scriptures about peace and spirituality” (Badam, 2018, February 17). In the present study, 99 percent (310) of respondents are observing their religious practices without any obstacles. Muslim respondents use the mosque to perform religious practices. Hindu respondents often worship in their rooms and visit the temple on particular days. Christian respondents go to churches in the early mornings or evenings of Sunday because Sunday is a working day in the UAE. One percent (three) of respondents face some obstacles to observe religious practices because of their working hours or the nature of their jobs.

Malayalee Migrants and the Rules and Regulations of the UAE

Rules and regulations of the UAE are entirely different from Kerala in its nature and implementation. “The core principle of the UAE law is based on Islamic Sharia and most legislations have been formulated with a mix of Islamic and European concepts of civil law. It has common roots in Egyptian Legal code established in the 19th and 20th Centuries” (Khedr and Alnuaimi, 2018, January). Alcohol is prohibited for Muslims in the UAE and non-Muslims

can use alcohol with a license. Otherwise, they will have to succumb to punishments. So it is necessary to understand the rules and regulations of host land for a better life for the migrants.

Active Rules and Regulations in the UAE (Table 4.11)

Rules and Regulation of the UAE are Active	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	220	90	310
Percent of Respondents	71%	29%	100%

Rules and regulations in the UAE are actively strict in its implementations. The UAE government strictly observes the activities of the people to avoid troubles and problems because the UAE is the destination of foreign laborers and it accounts for 90 percent of the total population of migrants from different parts of the world. They ensure security for its people through various methods. They provide equal preference to both citizens and foreign nationals for their security. Seventy-one percent (220) of respondents in the present study is stating that the rules and regulation of the UAE are very active in its implementation. Authority updates the rules and regulations from time to time, and it informs people through newspapers and other media. If anybody violates the rule, he or she will be punished immediately in the form of penalty, imprisonment, or even termination of visa depending on the nature of the crime and the violation of the rule. But 29 percent (90) of respondents stated that rules and regulations are active, but the implementation is not that stringent.

Discrimination While Implementing Justice Between Citizens and Foreigners (Table 4.12)

Equal Justice for all Beyond Foreigner and Citizen	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	279	31	310
Percent of Respondents	90%	10%	100%

The UAE is trying to implement justice to all its people without discrimination between foreigners and citizens. But often in the case of foreign semi-skilled and unskilled migrant laborers, lots of criticism has arisen. “Article 25 of the UAE constitution assures that all are equal before the implementation of the law and there will be no discrimination between citizens of the union based on race, religious belief, nationality or social status” (Khedr and Alnuaimi, 2018, January). The majority of the foreign workers in the UAE are unskilled or semi-skilled. Migrants’ governance is maintaining through Kafala system in the UAE and it gives more power to employers on employee. But often the Kafala system leads to exploitation by employers because of the full control over the employees. An employee cannot move to another job or leave the country without the written consent of the employer (Sponsor). Mainly unskilled and semi-skilled laborers are victims of the Kafala system. But the UAE is trying to provide better legal services to foreign laborers. The UAE has passed a new law in favor of domestic workers. Previously they were excluded from the protection offered under the UAE labor law. The new rule ensures domestic workers clarity regarding duty time, salary, holidays and annual leave with payment (Human Rights Watch, 2017, June 7). In the present study, 90 percent (279) of respondents are stating that government authority is stringent in implementing rules without the biases of foreigners and locals. These respondents stated that the majority of the foreign laborers work in the UAE without any fear because of the strict implementation of

rules and regulations. But 10 percent (31) of respondents are stating that the implementation of rules and regulations is different for locals and foreigners. Often priority goes to the locals. So labor migrants are exploited under the Kafala system. The UAE has a national labor law, but often unskilled and semi-skilled laborers do not get the benefit of the law, at least in the regularity of their payment.

Awareness About Legal Punishments in the UAE (4.13)

Awareness About the Punishment of the UAE	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	301	09	310
Percent of Respondents	97%	03%	100%

The UAE is taking strong procedures to stop crimes and violation of rules. They are trying to bring awareness among the natives and foreigners about the punishment for violation of rules and committing crimes. Article 28 of the UAE constitution explains “Penalty is personal, an accused person is presumed innocent until his conviction is proved before a court of law wherein the necessary guarantees of the right of the self-defense are secured. The law shall describe the cases in which the presence of a counsel for a defense shall be assigned and physical and moral abuse of an accused person is banned” (Khedr and Alnuaimi, 2018, January). The UAE has formulated a clear framework for the implementation of rules, regulations, and consequent punishments. More than government advertisement, cultural organizations among the foreign laborers are the ones creating awareness among their people about the laws and punishments of the UAE. Malayalam newspapers, channels, and radio are very powerful among the Malayalee community in the UAE. These media bring awareness among the Malayalee migrants about the existing rules and regulations, fine and punishment, new rules, etc. daily. In the present study (Table 4.13), 97 percent of respondents are aware of

the punishment in the country for violation of rules. Respondents stated that it is difficult to live in the UAE without knowing the rules and penalties. So foreigners need to be bothered and aware of the rules. Punishments are based on the degree of violation of rules. Penalty, imprisonment, deportation and capital punishment etc. are few existing punishments in the UAE. They update rules and regulations from time to time. Three percent (nine) of the respondents in the present study are not that much aware of the punishment for the violation of rules. These respondents are mostly new migrants in the UAE and are trying to learn about the existing rules and punishments. A respondent stated that he has been working as a driver since 2010, and drivers should be updated about the traffic rules of the UAE from time to time as the penalty for traffic violations is very high. The driver has to pay the fines from his own hands, and it will also be marked negatively in his license. New drivers often paying more than 50 percent of their salary as fine because of the traffic violation. Authorities are trying to create awareness regarding this.

Malayalee Migrants are More Obedient in Host Countries than Home Town (Table 4.14)

Malayalees are more Obedient in Host Land than Home Town	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	254	56	310
Percent of Respondents	82%	18%	100%

Migrants must be aware of all the punishments for the violation of rules in host land. A migrant can't leave the UAE without getting punished upon violating rules. All crimes will be recorded in their ID and it will show during the visa renewal process or while leaving the country. Migrants know very well that it is essential to obey the rules of host land and that otherwise, the consequences will be very high. In the present study (Table 4.14) 82 percent (254) of respondents state that Malayalee migrants are more obedient in the UAE than Kerala. Often

the feeling of foreign nation and awareness of punishments compel Malayalee migrants to obey the rules of the country. Compared to the implementation of rules and regulations in the UAE, Kerala is less strict and a lot of indirect options exist to avoid punishment such as political recommendation, spoliation of evidence and bribery etc. If any case is registered against anyone at all, it takes years to reach court and hear the final verdict. “According to National Judicial Grid, a total of 22.9 lakh cases are pending in lower courts which are ten years or older in which 5.97 lakhs cases are civil and 16.92 lakh cases are criminal in nature” (Times of India, 2018, September 18). Eighteen percent (56) of respondents stated that this is a false allegation against Malayalee migrants that they obey rules in host land and violate those of homeland. These respondents added that Kerala also strictly implements rules and regulations. Often some intervention does happen by politicians or influential people. It is nothing new and similar things happen in the UAE also. Bribery and recommendation to avoid cases are happening in the UAE too but not that much. Malayalee migrants are very obedient to host land’s rules and regulations than the home country. This is so because they would not be able to continue in the host land without obeying their rules and regulations. Another factor is that punishment is very strong and the fine is 100 percent or 200 percent more in the UAE than in Kerala which the semi-skilled and unskilled migrants are unable to pay with their limited salary. So they try their best to avoid the situation of violation of rules. “Article 27 of the UAE constitution explains that the law will define all the crimes and punishment, and no penalty will be declared for any crime or act before the appropriate law has been promulgated” (Khedr and Alnuaimi, 2018 January). The Law is trying to give justice to victims in all possible manners without the discrimination of locals and foreigners.

Cultural Associations and Malayalee migrants in the UAE

Several Malayalee cultural associations work across the UAE. They are not only focused on reproducing the cultural activities of the homeland but also try to interfere with the problems

of Malayalee migrants. “The UAE has a system of registering the social organization of the expatriate community and, within the guidelines laid down by the UAE government, such association can function freely” (<http://www.indembassyuae.gov.in/eoi.php?id=UAE>). The registered association extends support to required Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Indian Embassy noted that “there are six registered associations in Abu Dhabi namely Indian Social and Cultural Center, Abu Dhabi Malayalee Samajam, Kerala Social Center, Indian Islamic Center, Indian Social Center and Indian Ladies Association” (Ibid). Other smaller cultural associations are working with the affiliation of a registered association. They are organizing different cultural programs by bringing eminent artists from Kerala. It creates a significant relationship among the Malayalee migrants in host land and it helps them to recall their hometown memories and reduce the tension of the hectic work. NORKA Roots has circulated the list of recognized Malayalee associations abroad, and it includes 49 registered associations in different countries (Government of Kerala, 2018). Among the 49 recognized Malayalee Associations, 44 associations are in six GCC countries and makeup 90 percent of the total recognized Malayalee associations (ibid). Fifteen recognized Malayalee associations are working across the UAE and these Malayalee associations are visible and active in all seven emirates of the country. Indian Association Sharjah, Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre, Kerala Social center and Indian Islamic Center, etc. are prominent recognized Malayalee associations in the UAE. These associations provide economic support to the required section of the people in both Kerala and UAE. Associations try to interfere with the issues of Malayalee migrants, and they try to bring the attention of authorities to issues faced by Malayalee migrants in the UAE. They have massive scale participation of Malayalee migrants, and 34 percent of theses recognized Malayalee associations work in the UAE (ibid).

Membership in Malayalee Cultural Association in the UAE (4.15)

Membership in any Cultural Associations in the UAE	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	133	177	310
Percent of Respondents	43%	57%	100%

In the present study (Table 4.15), 43 percent (4.15) of respondents are members of different Malayalee associations. According to them, Malayalee associations are very active in the UAE and the office bearers of the association have contacts with local authorities. It helps to solve different problems related to work and travel documents. Malayalee associations provide various services to Malayalee migrants and other nationals free of cost or with minimum charges. Members have to pay a fixed amount to the association every month and the amount depends on the ability of the member. The amount received is used for the social and economic welfare of members in host land and if required, for people in homeland. Associations are trying to solve the problems of Malayalees in host land within their limits. Fifty-seven percent (177) of respondents in the present study are not members of any Malayalee associations. There is a criticism that a majority of the associations work as affiliated agents of political parties in their home town and they work with a clear vision to develop their political agenda among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Often association collects money from Malayalee migrants as social philanthropy by contributing to the development of home town. But it reaches home town as political philanthropy and political parties use most of it for their vote banking politics.

Respondents in the present study added that politics are visible in the activities of Malayalee associations in both homeland and host land. The office-bearers of the association will be highly politically connected people. Respondents noted that according to the nature of the job

of the semi-skilled and unskilled laborers, they do not have enough time to spend in association works. So they keep away from these types of activities, but they have the membership with fixed monthly payments to the association. Often the political element of home town influences the activities of associations in host land. Similarly, they have a high influence in the UAE.

Malayalee Migrants and Media in the UAE

Media have a vital role to play among the migrants in host land and often media help them to recreate the space of home town in host land. “Media play an important role in the reconstruction of cultural identities of Diaspora and helps negotiate a borderline existence between the home country and the host country” (Jacob and Venkataraghavan, 2018, p. 1). Malayalam media are very active and influential among the Malayalee migrants across the UAE. Several Malayalam newspapers, television and radio channels are working across the UAE. Malayalam media have become successful in the endeavor of influencing the Malayalee community in the UAE. Media have helped them to update the moments of both homelands and host land from time to time. Malayalam newspapers are the largest circulating newspapers in the regional language of a foreign country in the UAE. Four Malayalam newspapers namely “Gulf Madhyamam, Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhumi and Siraj’ have their own editions in the UAE. Apart from these, other Malayalam newspapers also circulate in the UAE. All Malayalam channels are telecasted in the UAE with a special Gulf edition news bulletin. Malayalam channels show different programs for Malayalee migrants in the UAE. “Asianet, Media one, Kairali, Jaihind, Reporter, Surya TV, Jeevan, and Flowers”, etc. are important Malayalam channels telecasting in the UAE. Radio programs are very influential among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. There are a number of Malayalam radio channels working across the UAE namely “Asianet radio AM 657; Voice of Kerala AM 1152; Radio Asia AM 1269, Hit FM 96.7, Super FM 94.7 and Gold FM 101.3, etc” (Saeed, 2012, July 12). The whole media has certain restrictions and regulations to work in the UAE. But Malayalee media are

trying to work effectively as a bridge between home town and host land within their limitations. Different programs in media connecting home and host land gives relaxation to Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Malayalam media also creates awareness of the new rules, regulations and traffic issues etc. among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE.

Various Media Using by Respondents in the UAE (Table 4.16)

Media	News Paper only	TV Channel only	Radio only	Both Newspaper & TV	Newspaper , TV & Radio	Other sources	Total
Number of Respondents	49	99	94	21	26	21	310
Percent of Respondents	16%	32%	30%	07%	08%	07%	100%

The present study (table 4.16) shows that newspapers, television and radio channels are influential media among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Sixteen percent (49) of respondents in the present study uses newspaper (e-paper and hard copy) only to know the news and updates in the UAE. These respondents argued that reading newspapers are an entirely different experience compared to listening and watching the news. The newspaper was the only media to know the news of the home town in the last decades of the 20th century. But the advancement of television and radio channels reduced the number of newspaper readers among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Thirty-two percent (99) of respondents watch television channels to know the news of both homeland and host land. Thirty percent (94) of respondents listen to radio channels to update their day to day information about the UAE and Kerala. Both television and radio channels give equal priority to news and entertainment programs. So more Malayalee migrants are attracted to television and radio channels. When compared to the percent of respondents watching television and listening to radio channels, the percent of the newspaper readers is less. In the present study, a respondent revealed that Malayalee migrants in the UAE do not get time to read newspapers in the morning and they

find time to read and listen only after their duty and most probably that will be late night. Seven percent (21) of respondents use both television and newspaper to know the news.

Eight percent (26) of respondents use newspapers, television and radio channels to know the news and enjoy the entertainment programs. Malayalam media, especially television and radio channels telecast variety entertainment programs for Malayalee migrants, and often Malayalam media get a higher rating from the Middle East than Kerala and other parts of the world. Seven percent (21) of respondents in this study depends on other sources like social media for news and entertainment. Often the cultural entertainment programs have a good response from Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Malayalam media are trying to reduce the cultural distance between the home town and host land. Yu shi (2005) has pointed out that migrants are forming communities in host land to remember the departed memories and media practices will help communities and recall the memories of home town.

Malayalee Migrants and Social Media in the UAE

The first decade of the 21st century witnessed the revolution of social media across the world. This revolution was benefitted the most by the labor migrants from different parts of the world. Social media has reduced the distance between home town and host land and the cost of the communications also. Social media helped to create a significant level of network among the migrants in host land which was not very easy previously. Dekker and Enberson (2012, p. 2) observed that the

“communications methods contributed by social media transformed the migration networks and thus mobilized migration through four unique functions. Firstly it strengthened strong ties with family, relatives, and friends; secondly created ties with an individual that can help in the process of migration and integration; thirdly it created a network of possible ties, and fourthly it created an insider knowledge on the process of migration”.

Social media helped to find out better opportunities in host land, and a lot of WhatsApp and Facebook groups are working for it. It helped to make a community feeling among the migrants in host land. “Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype, Instagram, Twitter, Gmail”, etc. are the leading social media in the 21st century. Facebook and WhatsApp are the most popular social media among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. One of the reasons behind this popularity is that Facebook and WhatsApp apps are users friendly and anyone can use it without a complicated process. Migrants can use social media to keep relation with the people they have met offline, and it further helps to find a new network in the strangest destination (McGregor and Siegel, 2013).

Membership in social media groups (Table 4.17)

Membership in Social Media Group (Facebook, Whatsaap)	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	245	65	310
Percent of Respondents	79%	21%	100%

An important aspect behind large scale migrants using social media is that it connects the families and friends under a common platform by avoiding the obstacle of distance. Another thing is that social media reduced the distance between the home town and host land at a larger scale and made life more alive. The migrants who didn’t have any technical skills also are very familiar with the usage of social media among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. The present study (table 4.17) shows that 79 percent (245) of respondents are active members of different social media platforms mainly Facebook and WhatsApp. The social media groups are mostly based on family circle, friends circle, community circle, political circle, job circle, charitable circle, and sports circle in both host land and homeland. Migrants update their day to day

activities through social media groups especially news regarding job vacancies and new job opportunities. Often it is also found that the over usage of social media lead to a lot of socio-economic and family problems. Twenty-one percent (65) of respondents of the present study are not that active in social media groups. They know the social media groups, but their nature of jobs and personal interests keep them away from the social media group. A respondent revealed that now social media is wasting a lot of free time and bring troubles to others than good intentions. The basic intention behind social media is to strengthen the tie among the people, but unfortunately often it leads to breaking the relationship of people. Even so, social media has influenced on Malayalee migrants at large scale in the UAE. It made a lot of positive aspects among the migrants, and often social media groups of migrants contribute as part of social philanthropy to required sections of the society in both homelands and host land. The majority of Malayalee migrants in the UAE are single migrants staying away from their families. So the advancement of social media helps them to connect regularly with family and friends. The low cost of the internet also increases the users of social media in the UAE.

Most importantly, social media made Malayalee migrants' life more live to their families. Migrants can communicate with each other if they require any help and they can also help other migrants through social media contacts. In the last decades of the 20th century, communication was very expensive and often communication of migrants limited to family only. But the advancement of social media made a new step in the lives of the migrants. However, the over usage of social media is creating a lot of psychological and economic troubles among migrants. Authorities, media, and Malayalee cultural associations are warning migrants from time to time about the fake activities of social media.

Welfare Activities in Host land

Participation of Welfare Activities in the UAE (Table4.18)

Participation in Welfare Activities in the UAE	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	127	183	310
Percent of Respondents	41%	59%	100%

UAE is the center of the labor migrants from across the world. The laborers are different from person to person in terms of qualification, job, and earnings. Migrants face many problems like struggling to find out jobs, migrants in jail without proper documentation and migrants are cheated by agencies or companies, suffering accidents without financial assistance from companies, etc. The migrants come from different parts of the world. But they are ready to help others by keeping away the differences of religion, nationality, and race, etc. But often forgery is noted in the name of welfare activities in the UAE. In the present study (4.18), 41 percent (127) of respondents are participating in the welfare activities in the UAE. They participate through the different Malayalee associations working across the UAE. Mainly they supply the foods in labor camps during necessary times and provide emergency assistance to required migrants especially in the incidence of death. To send the dead body from the UAE to the homeland has a lot of legal procedures. Often it is the Malayalee social workers who are actively involved in finishing procedures and sending the body to home town. In the present study 59 percent (183) of respondents are not directly part of the welfare activities in the UAE. They do provide financial assistance to conduct these welfare activities but the nature of their job and lack of time remains as obstacles to participating in the welfare activities. The welfare activities of the Malayalee community has been appreciated by the UAE authority. Because often the welfare activities reduce the duties of authorities. The welfare activities of the Malayalee migrants are one of the important aspects behind a large number of Malayalee

migrants in the UAE as it mobilizes new migrants to the UAE without the risk of migration at low cost.

Malayalee Women Migrants

Often women are out of the framework of migration because of the existing stereotype that producing income is the duty of male members of the family and female members have to manage things inside the home. Over time, this type of thought led to male domination in the migration process and the representation of women in migration became very less compared to male migrants. “The unfortunate result has been a persistent practice of using only male migration as the indicator of development-oriented analysis. Labor migration in India is more heavily biased towards males in service and industry” (Mazumdar et al, 2013, p. 55). Often the contribution of female migrants is not discussed properly even in academic spaces. The gender notion of patriarchal society articulated the limitation of women and highlighted the advantage of men in migration. International Migration report published by the United Nations reveals that women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants. The share of female migrants fell from 49 percent in 2000 to 48 percent in 2017 (International Migration Report, 2017). It is very recently that academicians started showing interest in women’s migration and their contribution. In recent years scholars have become increasingly concerned with the role women play in society. In modern days, women are very active in the migration process. Because both male and female members have become income producers of the family. Globalization has opened the door of opportunities without the discrimination of sex. Both skilled and unskilled people and women got opportunities in different fields. At the same time, women migrants still face a lot of problems in host land because of the gender notion of the home society. There is a tendency in the homeland for semi-skilled and unskilled women migrants without husbands or family to not be treated in a good manner. This is one of the biggest challenges facing single semi-skilled and unskilled women migrants. Compared to the

past, the number of women migrants in the migration process has increased. Their efforts and contributions have also started to get enough attention considerably.

Malayalee Working Women Migration

Often women keep away from the process of labor migrations due to various reasons. “The biggest difference between male and female migrants is women’s overwhelming degree of connectedness with family networks and especially to their children” (Osella, 2010, p. 31). Kerala working women migration refers to the movement of women migrants to another state or country to work. The number of working women migrants is very less when compared to male migrants in Kerala migration. Migration in Kerala is a male-dominated process. According to the Pravasi Malayalee Census conducted by the Government of Kerala in 2013, it reveals that Kerala has 1.62 million international migrants in which 1.42 million are working migrants (Pravasi Malayalee Census, 2013). Compared to Kerala working male migrants, the number of women working migrants is very less. Kerala has 99,326 women working migrants across the world, and it is only 7.4 percent of the total working migrants. The female proportion in the migration process is too less than international migrant’s proportion. New Zealand is leading with the highest proportion of Kerala working women migrants. Thirty-seven percent of total Kerala working migrants in New Zealand are female, and the UK comes second with 34 percent of women migrants from total Kerala working migrants (ibid). Both skilled and unskilled Malayalee women have migrated to different parts of the world as doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, and servants, etc. Malayalee Pravasi Census (2013) noted that the majority (49 percent) of Kerala working women migrants belong to the age group of 25-34. Compared to male migrants, the majority of the Kerala working women migrants are educated.

Kerala Working Women Migrants in the UAE

Kerala gulf migration is mainly male-dominated. “In Kerala, the women migrants are reported to be low accounting for 14 percent of all migrants. They move beyond the Gulf, particularly to the western nations through the route of skilled migration” (Rajan and Zachariah, 2018, p. 4). GCC countries have been a favorite destination for Keralites since the second half of the 20th century. Irudaya Rajan and Zachariah observed that nine out of ten migrants from Kerala could be found in the Gulf (ibid). Once, Kerala Gulf migration was mainly male-oriented but now things have changed, and women have also started to migrate to the GCC countries. Pravasi Malayalee census 2013 noted that GCC countries host 1.284 million of Kerala working migrants and this constitutes around 90 percent of total Kerala working migrants (Pravasi Malayalee Census 2013). Since the Malayalee Gulf Migration is a male-dominated process, women working migrants constitute only five percent of the total number of Kerala working migrants (ibid).

The UAE, being one of the favorite destinations of Kerala migration, is leading with 39.1 percent of total Malayalee migrants in 2018 (Zachariah and Rajan, 2019). The UAE is hosting 14, 26, 853 Malayalee working migrants, in which 22,839 are women with five percent of total Malayalee migrants in the UAE (Pravasi Malayalee Census, 2013). Both skilled and unskilled Kerala women migrants are working in different sectors of the UAE economy. Women migrants are engaged in professions like doctors, engineers, teachers, fashion designers, and servants, etc (ibid).

Marital Status and Age Group of the Respondents in the UAE (4.19)

Marital Status	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Age Group	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Single	08	16 %	20-25	3	06 %
			25-30	5	10 %
Married	42	82%	30-35	20	39 %
			35-40	18	35 %
Divorcee	01	2%	40-45	5	10 %
Total	51	100		51	100%

In the present study, 16 percent (8) of the total respondents are working women migrants in the UAE. Present study shows that 82 percent (42) of the respondents are married and 16 percent (eight) of the respondents are single and two percent (one) of the respondents are divorced. Majority of the women migrants are married before migrating to the UAE. In the present study, 74 percent (38) of respondents belong to the age group of 30 to 40 and sixteen percent (eight) of respondents are of 20 to 30 age group.

Educational Qualifications of the Respondents (Table 4.20)

Qualification	Number of Respondents	Percent	Reason behind Gulf Migration	Number of Respondents	Percent
SSLC	5	10%	Unemployment	21	42 %
Plus Two	8	16%			
Diploma	9	18%	For better salary	15	28 %
UG	19	37%	Husband is working in UAE	06	12 %
PG	10	20%	Underemployment	09	18 %
Total	51	100		51	100 %

In the present study (table 4.20), the majority of respondents are educated; 37 percent (19) of the respondents have obtained graduation in various subjects, and 20 percent (10) of respondents are post-graduation holders. Education qualification is comparatively high among the Kerala working women migrants in the UAE and most of them are 21st-century women migrants. Eighteen percent (nine) of respondents have a diploma, and ten percent (five) of respondents have matriculation as education qualification. Forty-two percent (21) of respondents migrated because of unemployment. In the present study, 28 percent (15) respondents had a job in home town, but the wage was insufficient to meet their needs. Twelve percent (six) of respondents migrated to the UAE because their husbands work in the UAE and 18 percent (nine) of respondents migrated to the UAE because of the absence of suitable jobs.

The profession of the Respondents (Table 4.21)

Profession	Number of Respondents	Percent
Accountant	7	14%
Engineer	6	12%
Nurse	16	31%
Teacher	17	33%
Cook and servant	5	10%
Total	51	100%

Teachers and nurses are the leading professionals among the Kerala working women migrants in the UAE. In the present study (Table 4.21), 33 percent (17) of respondents are working as teachers in different schools and 31 percent (16) of respondents are working in different hospitals as nurses in the UAE. The proportion of engineers and accountants are respectively 12 percent (six) and 14 percent (seven) in the study. Ten percent (five) of respondents are working in an Arab's house as a cook or servant. In the present study, respondents revealed

that the job environment in the UAE is good, but competition is increasing in the job market. The government's localization process of jobs is a threat to foreign employees. Compared to other professions, being servants in Arab households is a difficult task. They do not have any fixed hours or work time and they should be ready to work at any time, day or night. Even so, financial crisis and home town responsibilities force them to remain as servants in the UAE. Nurses and teachers are happy with their job in the country. Often they are compelled to do overtime duty, but they are happy with the extra payment for the overtime duty done. All respondents stated that co-workers including men workers are very cooperative and respectful.

Socio-Cultural Situation of the Kerala Working Women Migrants in the UAE

The socio-cultural atmosphere of the host land is a significant factor in migration, especially for women. The world is developing at a fast pace, but often women's security is a matter of big concern in every nation. The UAE is one of the leading destinations of migration from different parts of the world. The gender notion of the host land decides the socio-cultural situation of the women migrants in host land. Gender is not biological; it is purely social. It is the social construction of a society that will decide the boundaries of both females and males in society. Often gender notions favorable to male members.

Gender Discrimination in the UAE and Kerala (Table 4.22)

Gender Discrimination in the UAE	Yes	No	Total	Gender Discrimination in Kerala	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	04	47	51	Number of Respondents	43	8	51
Percent of Respondents	08%	92%	100%	Percent of Respondents	84%	16%	100%

Gender discrimination is a situation in which women are discriminated against or differentiated because of their sex. Same job and different payments, same job and different working hours, prejudices in support of men, etc. are some examples of gender discrimination. Often women are discriminated against due to the gender notion in the public sphere and patriarchal social system trying to avoid the contribution of women in society. But the present study (Table 4.22) shows that the UAE is comparatively favorable to Malayalee women migrants. Ninety-two percent of (47) respondents stated that they did not face any gender discrimination in the UAE as a woman. Women are treated well with respect and complete cooperation in every sphere. But eight percent (four) of respondents revealed that gender discrimination exists in the UAE. Often women do not get the deserved attention because of their sex. It is mostly servants who suffer a lot in their workplace. One respondent shared her experience of being treated badly by the house owner and with a payment lesser than that of male servants, even as they do the same work.

In the present study, (Table 4.22) 84 percent (43) of respondents stated that gender discrimination is very much visible in Kerala. Gender discrimination is evident inside and outside the home. Often this gender discrimination denies opportunities for women. Compared to Kerala, the UAE is better in its gender notions. But it cannot be said that the country is entirely free from gender discrimination. Having said that, the respondents enjoy a better atmosphere different to them from their pasts. In the present study, 16 percent (eight) of respondents stated that they don't feel any gender discrimination in Kerala and added that Kerala is comparatively better in the case of women's status when compared with other states of India.

Women Security in the UAE

Women Security in UAE (Table 4.23)

Better Women Security	Yes	No	Total
Number of Respondents	49	02	51
Percent of respondents	96%	04%	100%

Security is an essential aspect of migration in host land, especially for the women migrants. Personal safety is one of the elements to decide the destination of migration. Ninety-six percent (49) respondents of the present study revealed that the UAE is the best place for women. The authorities are always ready to help especially women and offenses against women are highly punishable in the UAE. One respondent noted that the authority is very strict in law implementation, and people are aware of the law and order. So people do not take risks. At the same time, four percent (two) of respondents revealed that public security is very tight and efficient, but often it is inefficient in stopping crimes against women. Many cases are even left unreported. But in the present study, 92 percent (47) respondents are confident to walk alone through any street of the UAE without any fear even at midnight and at the same time 84 percent (43) respondents are not ready to walk through the streets of Kerala at night. According to a respondent

“rules are stringent and efficient in the UAE and people are aware of it, so ladies can easily move around the country without fear. But in the home town, violence against women is increasing day by day, and victims do not get justice in many cases” (Raziya, 31, female)

The women’s security assured by authority makes Kerala working women migrants’ life in the UAE more life, and it connects them to the UAE even more.

Status of Kerala Working Women Migrants in Both Homeland and Host Land

Gulf migration was a symbol of social status among Malayalees, especially to male migrants. Kerala Society did not prefer women's migration in a large scale, and they treated unskilled and semi-skilled migrant women servants in a bad manner. One respondent explained that "she faced a lot of insults from home town when she migrated to the UAE as a servant. At the same time, her neighbor who had a similar job in an Arab household enjoyed a high social status in home town" (Mariyam, 40, female). It is a fact that the migration of single women without any qualification is a tough task and society will depict her negatively. But recently, in Kerala, women migrants are skilled and working well in their field and a majority of women Gulf migrants have started migrating with their families. Often, skilled women migrants enjoy a good social status in both homeland and host land. But unskilled women migrants suffer a lot and do not get deserved consideration in both homeland and host land. Remittances are playing an important role in the homeland. Family and relatives depend more on Gulf migrants for economic assistance. Often working women migrant's status is decided upon their financial contribution to family and relatives. In the present study, 95 percent (48) respondents are enjoying good social status in both homeland and host land. They are skilled migrants and doing white-collar jobs in the UAE. At the same time, five percent (three) of respondents face discrimination in social status in their home town. These respondents are unskilled migrants and working as servants in Arab houses. The nature of their jobs is the reason behind having low social status in both the UAE and their homelands.

Less Proportion of Working Women Migrants in Kerala Gulf Migration

It is discussed that the number of working women migrants in Kerala Gulf migration is very less and Kerala Gulf migration is a male-dominated process. In the present study, 55 percent

(28) respondents observed that women's migration without family is not encouraged by family and society. A majority of women working in the UAE have their husbands or relatives, also working in the country. Twenty percent (10) percent of respondents stated that a lot of skilled women are ready to migrate abroad. But often they are not able to go because of a lack of information and network. Eight percent (15) respondents said that recruiting agencies play around a lot with fake visas and so people do not trust them with migration. Also in the Middle East, many servants experience brutality by house owners and colleague workers. So often unskilled women are afraid to migrate. In the present study, 10 percent (five) respondents are very optimistic and revealed that lack of women proportion in Kerala Gulf migration is a reality. But now things are changing and more skilled women migrants are migrating to the UAE. A critical fact is that when comparing the qualification of female migrants to male migrants, the qualification of women migrants is very high.

Conclusion

Socio-cultural and political surroundings of the UAE is entirely different from that of Kerala. So to adjust in the new environment is a difficult task for new migrants in the UAE. Often the Malayalee migration networks in the UAE helps migrants to mix with host land. The majority of respondents did not face any serious isolation and discrimination as foreign laborers in the UAE. Migrant's profession plays a major role in their status in the UAE. Malayalee migrants have been visible in the UAE since the origin of migration to the UAE from different parts of the world. Being a Malayalee migrant in the UAE has both merits and demerits. Malayalee migrants have a good relationship with natives and other nationals and natives do consider Malayalee laborers with respect except in a few cases. A large portion of respondents did not feel any obstacles to mingle with native people in the UAE.

Respondents are participating in the cultural and commercial festivals of the UAE, and it makes Malayalee migrants closer to host land. There are no obstacles like religion, caste, and region to mingle within the Malayalee community. But often the nature of the job creates limitations to mingle with other Malayalee and non-Malayalee migrants. Non-Muslims Malayalee migrants have the option to perform their religious practices within the terms and conditions. Rules and regulations of the UAE are stringent and active in its implementations. But often lack of attention from authority leads to the exploitation of foreign laborers, especially domestic and unskilled workers. It is noted that Malayalee migrants obey the rules and regulations of the UAE better than that of Kerala. They are aware of the punishment and consequences of violation of rules in the UAE very well.

Malayalee cultural associations are very active among the Malayalee migrants, and they are the ones trying to solve the issues of Malayalee migrants within their limitations. Malayalam media like newspapers, television, and radio channels are very popular among the Malayalee community in the UAE and these are working as the bridge between migrants and homeland. Emergence and development of social media have helped Malayalee migration at large scale, and it helped them to make networks in host land and involve in the issues of Malayalee migrants in the UAE. It also reduced the distance of homeland with migrants. Malayalee migrants are active in welfare activities in the UAE through the recognized cultural associations either physically as financially. The proportion of Malayalee working women migrants is very less in the UAE. The majority of women migrated with their husbands after marriage or with family. The migration of women without a husband or family member is not encouraged in Kerala. Unskilled women migrants like servants staying without their family will suffer both in homeland as well as host land. Women migrants are enjoying more status and security in the UAE than Kerala. Compared to Kerala, gender discrimination is very less in UAE and the situation is far more comfortable to women migrants. Often lack of support from family and

lack of knowledge about opportunities etc. are the leading factors to lesser number of working female migration to the UAE.

The large Malayalee network in host land has made the UAE the nearest place to Malayalee migrants. The socio, political and cultural circumstances of the UAE is quite favorable to Malayalees. Maintaining the relationship with natives and other locals are helping Malayalees to adjust to new circumstances. The presence of Malayalee cultural associations, Malayalam media and social media make host land more comfortable to Malayalee migrants. It is a major reason behind the trend of Malayalees migrating to the UAE. Malayalee migrants do overcome all the obstacles to adjust to the socio-cultural and political circumstances of the UAE and have made a vast network of Malayalee migrants in the UAE. The next chapter deals with the summary and conclusion of the present study. It tries to conclude major findings and observations of the present study and also provides suggestions for future research.

Chapter 5

Summary and Conclusion

Kerala was not familiar with the process of outward migration until the first decade of the 20th century. However, it witnessed large scale migration after the independence of India in two phases. The first phase was the migration of Malayalees to developed and highly industrialized countries like the US and the Western European nations. It was mainly the migration of highly qualified and skilled Malayalee migrants. The semi-skilled and unskilled people were excluded from this phase of migration. The second phase of migration, a large-scale migration of unskilled and semiskilled labor migration to the Middle East took place in the last quarter of the 20th century. Kerala had not experienced this type of massive migration before. Malayalees mainly migrated to the six GCC countries, namely Bahrain, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and UAE. During the first decades of Kerala Gulf migration, a large number of Malayalees migrated to the KSA and UAE. But the dawn of the 21st century witnessed several Malayalee migrated to the UAE than KSA. The GCC economy depends on the price of crude oil in international markets. The last decade of the 20th century and the dawn of the 21st century showed a decreasing trend of crude oil prices in the global market. The UAE, especially Dubai concentrated on the finance, service and tourism sector and it made a lot of job opportunities in the UAE and a large number of Malayalees chose the UAE as a migration destination.

The present study is conducted among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE because a large volume of the Malayalee migrants are working in the UAE and these Malayalee migrants are visible across the seven emirates of the UAE. The study mainly focuses on the trends, patterns, and changes of the 21st century Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE. Malayalee migrants in the UAE are the economic backbone of Kerala society and the Gulf migration reduced the unemployment rate at a high level in Kerala. It is therefore essential to understand the trends

and patterns of Kerala migration to the UAE. The study also focuses on the socio-cultural and political situation of the UAE and how Malayalee adjusts and corporate with them.

The present study consists of five chapters including the introduction and the conclusion. The first chapter gives an analysis of the present study. It talks about the definitions, concepts, importance, and the limitations of the research. It also analyses the objectives, methodology and theoretical framework of the study. It describes the general background of international migration and Indian migration particularly.

The second chapter discusses the Kerala migration in general and Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE in particular. It tries to recollect the history of Kerala migration with the support of secondary sources. Then the present study talks about Kerala migration to the UAE and makes a detailed statistical analysis from 1980 to 2018 based on the studies conducted by the government of Kerala and the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. It examines the Kerala migration to six GCC countries, its growth, and trends.

The third chapter discusses the trends, patterns, and changes of the 21 century Kerala migration to UAE based on the empirical findings from Malayalee migrants in UAE. In the first part, it mainly discusses the sex, marital status, structure of the family, religion, education and age group of migrant respondents. It analyses the causes of migration, nature of the job, working hours, monthly salary and annual leave, etc. It gives detailed information on the pattern of migration, present job status, future of migrants and reason behind the UAE as a favorite destination. It also talks about the Malayalee migration network and how it mobilized a large number of Malayalees to the UAE. It discusses single migrants without their family and how they overcome the absence of family in the UAE. Then the present study talks about the communication methods of Malayalee migrants with family. It explains a large number of internal labor migrants to Kerala and its reasons. Then the chapter describes the government

initiations towards migrants and the aspect of luxury culture among migrant's family, unproductive usage of Gulf remittances and the role of migrants in the welfare activities of the home town.

The fourth chapter discusses the socio-political and cultural circumstances of Malayalee migrants in the UAE and how Malayalee migrants adjusted with the conditions that are entirely different from their hometown. Firstly, it talks about the isolation and discrimination as a Malayalee migrant in the host land. Then it focuses on the relation with the natives and other nationals, rules and regulations of the host land and its implementation, Malayalee cultural associations, Malayalam media and social media. The last part of the chapter discusses the Malayalee women migrants, their proportion, gender discrimination, women security and the low number of women migrants in the migration process.

Kerala migration to the UAE has been a male-dominated phenomenon since its origin. The proportion of female migrants is decidedly less in the total number of Malayalee migrants in the UAE. This is a common phenomenon and is visible in all Kerala migrations. The majority of respondents are married, and the marriage was after their first migration. Female migrants have married before migration, and only a few female migrants got married after migration. The society considered financial stability as a critical aspect before marriage. The majority of the respondents' age group is between 25 to 50 years of age. Kerala Gulf migration is labor migration, and health and energy is an essential aspect of labor migration. Large numbers of Malayalee migrants belong to nuclear families. Malayalee migrants give preference to constructing a separate home for their wife and children after migration. But they perform the function of the joint family when it comes to decision making and other activities.

The majority of the respondents are Muslims and later, Hindus and the Christians followed. The historical ties and cultural aspects accelerate the migration of more number of Muslim

migrants to the UAE. Chain migration is powerful among the Muslim community compared to Hindus and Christians. Fourteen districts of Kerala have sent migrants to the UAE. Malappuram district is leading with a larger number of migrants in the UAE. The present study did not get respondents from the Idukki district who were working in the UAE. Malabar districts are leading in the number of Malayalee migrants compared to other districts.

Compared to the last decades of the 20th century Malayalee migrants in the UAE, the 21st-century Malayalee migrants are educationally qualified and skilled. Only three percent of the respondents have matriculation and the rest of them have post-matriculation, graduation, diploma, and post-graduation as a qualification. It is one of the notable changes of long term Kerala Gulf migration from 1970 to 2018. Getting a visa is an essential aspect of the international movement, especially Kerala migration to the UAE, and it influences the pattern of migration at a large level. Eighty-one percent of the respondents got a visa through migration networks, and it led to a large scale of chain migration. Chain migration is a significant pattern of Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE.

The majority of the respondents are the migrants of the third phase of Kerala migration to the UAE. Seventy-five percent of the respondents reached the UAE in the first decade of the 21st century. The present study mainly concentrates on them. More than unemployment, the absence of suitable jobs is the main reason behind a large number of Malayalee migration to the UAE. Unemployment, seasonal unemployment, low wages and better opportunities, etc. are other reasons to migrate to the UAE. The fact is that the unemployment rate among the qualified candidates is increasing day by day in Kerala and the Kerala migration to the UAE is working as a “safety valve” to reduce the unemployment rate in Kerala.

Migration to the UAE is majorly trending among the Malayalee migrants because of opportunities and good salary packages, the presence of family and friends, developing

economy and growing tourism and the availability of visas, etc. Compared to the other five GCC countries, more Malayalees migrate to the UAE. Eight percent of the respondents had migrated to other GCC countries before the UAE as a labor migrant. Low salary, tough job circumstances and localization policies of the host countries compelled them to leave from there and migrate to the UAE with a lot more hopes and calculations. They were mainly cooks, drivers, engineers, nurses, and mechanics in their previous migration.

Malayalees are visible across the seven emirates of the UAE. In the present study, the majority of the respondents are located in Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, and Fujairah and a majority of them are working in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Compared to other emirates, job opportunities are higher in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah. But living costs are very high in Dubai compared to the rest of the Emirates.

The first phase and second phase of Malayalee migration to the UAE had unskilled and semi-skilled migrants. But the third phase consists of skilled and semi-skilled migrants. It was a significant pattern change from unskilled to skilled migrants. Now the unskilled sector is providing a meager wage, and the Malayalee migrants are not able to work for the low wage range. Unskilled sectors are now dealing with more laborers from North India and other countries like the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, etc. Semi-skilled and skilled migrants are migrating to the UAE with some previous experiences. In the present study, the majority of the respondents are drivers with 26 percent of total respondents. Driving is comparatively a good-paying job in the UAE. Hence the massive scale of semi-skilled migrants attracted to the driving profession. Accountants, engineers, managers, teachers, nurses, salesmen, cooks, and security, etc. are the other professions engaged by the Malayalee migrants in the UAE.

Working hours vary from work to work in the UAE. Forty percent of the respondents work around eight hours per day. But 51 percent of the respondents work more than ten hours per day. Nine percent of respondents work around 14 hours per day. Semi-skilled and unskilled laborers work more hours per day. An attractive salary is one of the reasons behind Kerala UAE migration. The majority of the respondents get between 1500 to 3000 Dirham per month (₹ 28000-56000). Salary depends on the profession and the locality of the job. If a driver works in government offices or official houses, he will get a salary more than what an engineer or a manager gets in a company. Thirty-seven percent of respondents get above 5000 Dirham per month. And 15 percent of the respondents get 1000 to 1500 Dirham per month. The minimum salary of the respondents in the UAE is from 1000-1500 Dirham (₹ 18000 to 28000).

The remittances from Gulf countries are the economic backbone of the Kerala society. Thirty-four percent of the respondents send an amount between ₹ 5000 to 1000 per month to home. Around twenty-three percent of respondents in the present study send between ₹ 10000 to 15000 per month to home. Twenty-two percent of respondents send above ₹15000 per month. The amount sent as remittance increases and decreases based on the requirements of the home town. The minimum remittance sent home is ₹ 5000 per month sent by 21 percent of the respondents.

The Malayalee migrants occasionally visit their family and friends because the majority of the Malayalee migrants are single migrants in the UAE. The majority of the respondents get 60 days' vacation in two years. Vacations are based on the nature of the job. Mostly skilled laborers get 30 days' vacation per year. Two percent of respondents have 179 days of holiday in a year because they conduct their own business. Sixteen percent of respondents have a 90-day vacation in two years. It is the choice of the employee to take leave. He or she can continue to work without a vacation. Good job and attractive salary, savings and coming back home soon etc. were the expectations of 96 percent of the respondents before migration. Thirty-four

percent of the respondent's expectations were fulfilled after the migration. But 45 percent of the respondents' expectation was fulfilled only partially. Twenty-one percent of respondents' expectation was totally against their calculations before migration. The UAE gave an experience to respondents that were entirely different from what they imagined about the UAE before migration. Seventy-three percent of the respondents are satisfied with their present job while 27 percent of the respondents are struggling with their job and trying to find out an alternative option. The present crisis in the job market makes it more stringent to find an alternative job option without compromises like working for a low salary. Low wages, tough job circumstances, lack of annual leave and lack of interest in the present job etc. are the primary reasons behind dissatisfaction in the present job. The majority of the Malayalee migrants in the UAE are living without their family. The present study shows that 65 percent of the respondents stay without a family. High life expenses in the UAE, caring of aged parents and grandparents in the home town and education of the children, etc. are the reasons behind leaving the family back in Kerala.

The Malayalee migrants are purely temporary laborers in the UAE and they will search for alternative options when their contract ends. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents are willing to accept a job opportunity in Kerala while 21 percent of them reject the possibility. The primary reason behind the rejection of jobs in home town is that the expenses are more than the income in the home town and there would be no savings if they work in Kerala. Some migrants are happy with their present job status in the UAE, and so they would not like to work in Kerala.

Malayalees are migrating to foreign countries for employment and better opportunities whereas people from different states of India are migrating to Kerala for jobs and better pay. The respondents in the present study noted that Malayalees are bothered about the job status in the home town and prefer only for white-collar jobs. Differences between wages and living

expenses and better payment in foreign countries than Kerala etc. are the reasons for the large scale migration of Malayalees and these vacancies in the home town are filled by the non-Malayalee migrants from different parts of India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The absence of family with the migrants is leading to socio-psychological problems among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. The respondents are trying to overcome this issue by contacting family members regularly through different communication methods. The loving approach of the family members and sharing feelings with migrant friends etc, also help them to overcome the issue of homesickness.

Twenty-nine percent of the respondents in the present study last visited home before two years. Four percent visited the home town just before three months, and 21 percent visited their hometown one year ago. Often respondents are extending home town visits because of economic burdens. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents will visit once in a year and 31 percent will visit once in two years. Twenty-two percent visit their hometown once every six months while eight percent visit their hometown once in three years. Home visits of the respondents depend on different factors, mainly economic. The advancement of modern communication methods reduced the distance between hometown and the host land and it reduced the cost of communication also. Fifty-five percent of the respondents talk to their families by phone. Forty-one percent of respondents use social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and IMO to communicate with family and hometown. The revolution of technology in the communication sector made great relaxation to Malayalee labor migrants in the UAE. It increased the contacts among the migrants and their families. Fifty-two percent of respondents are now communicating with their families every day.

Hometown festivals are nostalgic memories for the Malayalee migrants. Participating in festivals with family and friends bring them immense joy. But often migrants are unable to participate in the festivals because of the nature of their jobs or the cost of transportation. Fifty-

four percent of respondents attend home town festivals while 33 percent of respondents are unable to attend. Thirteen percent of respondents visit to celebrate festivals if they get chances. According to Kerala migration statistics, most of the Malayalee migrants are going to the UAE and the trend of Kerala migration is a favor to the UAE (Malayalee Pravasi Census, 2013). The respondents in the present study reveal that friendly atmosphere, relaxations in rules, job opportunities, high salary and the presence of family members and friends, etc.in the UAE are the significant reasons for more Malayalee migrants to migrate to the UAE.

Malayalee migration networks are playing a crucial role in Kerala migration to the UAE. Chain migration is an essential pattern in Kerala-UAE Migration. Seventy-four percent of respondents would like to bring their friends and relatives for finding better job opportunities, and 59 percent of respondents already carried their family members and friends to the UAE for employment and better opportunities.

Today, the world is going through an economic crisis, and GCC countries are not free from the phenomenon due to the oil price decline and the unemployment rate among the locals. Fifty-seven percent of respondents are worried about their jobs while 47 percent of respondents in the present study believe that the UAE will recover from the current economic crisis. But the situation is not so favorable to Malayalee laborers in the UAE. Gulf remittances are an important source of the Kerala economy. So scholars and researchers are seriously observing the changes in the UAE. In the present study, 72 percent of respondents think that the future of Kerala migration to the UAE will be in trouble if the present situation continues. But 28 percent of respondents have hope in the job market of the UAE in the future.

The UAE is leading with a large number of Malayalee migrants. But there is a declining trend noted in the rate of the Malayalee migrants to the UAE from 1980 to 2018. Respondents pointed out that economic recession, lack of job opportunities, low wages and alternative options in the

job market of Kerala are the reasons for the decreasing trend of Malayalee migrants to the UAE. Return migration is an inevitable process of Kerala migration to the UAE. Gulf return migration is increasing day by day among the Malayalee migrants from the UAE. Termination from the job, voluntary retirement, reduction in salary, physical and family problems and invisible localization in job markets etc , are the reasons for a large number of returnees from the UAE to Kerala. Preparation for life after return migration is a significant aspect of every Malayalee migrant. In the present study, only 35 percent of respondents have made alternative options for a living after return migration like a small investment in a productive manner while 65 percent of respondents did not take any precaution to face the life after return migration. The majority of respondents are struggling to fulfill day to day requirements. So they do not think about the future.

Both the Government of India and the Government of Kerala have a significant role in the matter of migrants especially labor migrants in Gulf countries. Governments have formulated different schemes and policies for the welfare of migrants and their families. The present study shows that 53 percent of respondents state that both state and central governments are inactive in the subject of migrant laborers and 21 percent of respondents are happy with the interference of the government of Kerala for overseas migrants. Another critical problem is that 54 percent of respondents are not aware of the welfare schemes available for Malayalee migrants. Often government machinery fails to inform the root level. Ninety-three percent of respondents did not apply for any assistance from the state and central government, and seven percent of respondents applied for a welfare scheme but they did not get any assistance. NORKA Roots is a nodal agency of the Kerala government to work for the welfare of the Non Residents of Keralites and new migration aspirants. Eighty-one percent of respondents in the present study know about the activities of the NORKA Roots while 19 percent of respondents don't have much knowledge about the NORKA Roots. The Government of Kerala is trying to assist the

required NRK population through NORKA Roots. Pravasi Identity Card is an essential scheme of the government of Kerala for its overseas populations. But only 31 percent of respondents have applied for the Pravasi Identity Card. Majority migrants are not bothered about the benefits of the card. Fifty-three percent of respondents are happy with the engagement of NORK Roots for the overseas population.

A large volume of remittances sent from the UAE to Kerala has made a lot of socio-economic and cultural changes in Kerala. It produced positive and negative changes in society. Luxury life is one of the negative impacts caused by a large amount of Gulf remittances in Kerala. Eighty-nine percent of respondents are stating that luxury tendencies have increased among the families of Gulf migrants because of the large amount of the Gulf remittances. Present job status in the UAE is not in a safety zone, and it will be lost at some point in time. So luxury culture will lead to trouble once Gulf migration ends, scholars have warned.

Consumption of remittances in a proper way is significant because the job in the Gulf is purely temporary and one day they will have to return from the UAE. Seventy-one percent of respondents indicated Gulf migrants are spending a considerable amount of remittances in an unproductive manner such as constructing luxury homes, buying expensive vehicles and luxury celebrations. It will create consequences in future life. Malayalee Gulf migrants are very active in the welfare activities of the home town physically and economically. They are contributing a significant amount to the welfare of the home town. Fifty-eight percent of respondents are actively participating in the welfare activities, and 97 percent of respondents are economically contributing to the different welfare activities in Kerala.

The UAE is an entirely different destination from Kerala culturally, politically and economically. So to adjust with the new destination is a complicated task to Malayalee migrants in the UAE. The socio-cultural, economic and political aspects of the homeland will influence

the Malayalee migrants in host land. There is a possibility of isolation as a foreign labor in the UAE. In the present study, 86 percent of respondents don't face any isolation as a foreigner in UAE. Malayalee migration networks have reduced the isolation in host land. But 14 percent of respondents are suffering from isolation as a foreigner. Ninety-six percent of respondents reveal that they don't feel and experience any discrimination as a foreigner in the UAE while four percent have faced discrimination as a foreign laborer in host land. The majority of Malayalee migrants in the UAE are labor migrants, and their profession has importance in host land. Forty percent of respondents think that the profession has an essential role in social status in host land.

Malayalee labor migrants have been visible in the UAE since the migration origin to the UAE. So Malayalee migrants are enjoying both advantages and disadvantages in the UAE. Fifty-four percent of respondents are enjoying advantages as Malayalee migrants while six percent of respondents are suffering disadvantages as a Malayalee migrant in the UAE. The UAE is the destination of migrants across the world. So the relation with locals and foreigners is an essential aspect of the Malayalee migrant. Generally, Malayalees have a good relationship with foreigners and vice versa. Malayalees keep a healthy relationship with citizens of the UAE. Some Malayalee respondents are maintaining purpose base relations with foreigners and citizens. Eighty-eight percent of respondents in the present study state that locals approaching them are very friendly and they did not show any discrimination as a foreign laborer.

The UAE has a lot of festivals, and foreigners can attend or keep away from the celebrations. The participation of the host land's festival will connect migrants to host land. Ninety-four percent of respondents are participating in the different cultural and commercial festivals organized by the UAE. It connects Malayalee migrants more to host land. The UAE is an Islamic state and the rule is based on "Islamic Sharia". But they respect other religions also. They provide freedom for observing religious practices of non-Muslims within terms and

conditions. Ninety-nine percent of respondents state that they don't have any obstacle to observing their religious practices in the UAE.

The UAE is quite strict with the implementation of rules and regulations across the country. Seventy-one percent of respondents experience that rules and regulations are very active in implementation. Ninety percent of respondents think that there is no discrimination in implementing rules and regulations as citizens and foreigners. Ten percent of respondents noted some favoritism towards locals. Often this favoritism led to the exploitation of foreign employees. Ninety-seven percent of respondents are aware of the punishment of the UAE in the violation of rules and regulations. It is noted that Malayalee migrants are more obedient in following the rules and regulations of the UAE than Kerala. They are aware that authority will take strict actions against law violators in host land than Kerala. Eighty-two percent of respondents have agreed with the double stand of Malayalee migrants in host land and homeland. The Malayalee cultural associations are very active among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE and they are actively involved in the matters of Malayalee migrants in all possible manners. Forty-three percent of respondents in the present study are members of the different recognized cultural associations in the UAE. Often nature of the job and lack of time makes it difficult for Malayalee migrants to work in the cultural association. There is a criticism that politics is visible in the activities of Malayalee cultural associations in the UAE.

Malayalam media like Malayalam newspapers, television and radio channels are profoundly influencing the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Malayalam newspapers, Malayalam television and radio channels are popular across the UAE. Respondents in the present study mainly depend on Malayalam media for news and cultural programmes. Often Malayalam media works as a bridge between migrants and homeland. Sixteen percent of respondents are reading Malayalam newspapers and 62 percent of respondents are watching and listening to both television and radio channels for information and cultural entertainment. The advancement of

social media played an important role among the Malayalee migrants to make networks in host land. Social media reduced the distance of migrants with the homeland and made their life more alive. Facebook and WhatsApp are the most popular social media among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. Seventy-nine percent of respondents are members of various social media groups in WhatsApp and Facebook. Often these groups are helpful to mobilize the assistance for required Malayalee migrants in host land.

A lot of Malayalee migrants are suffering from different problems in the UAE. So welfare activities in host land are an essential aspect, especially among the foreign labor migrants. Malayalee cultural associations are active in welfare programs among the Malayalee and non-Malayalee labor migrants in the UAE. Forty-one percent of respondents are participating in different welfare activities through the Malayalee cultural associations. But 59 percent of respondents are not directly involved in the welfare activities in the UAE but they are economically assisting in the activities of the associations.

Often women are out of the migration framework especially labor migration. Kerala migration to the UAE is a male-dominated process. Kerala Malayalee Pravasi Census (2013) shows that the proportion of Malayalee women migrants is only seven percent of total migrants and working women migrants are five percent of total working migrants. In the present study, 16 percent of respondents are women migrants and the percent of women respondents are more than the total working women migrants' percentage. In the present study, 82 percent of respondents are married and two percent are divorcees. Eighty-four percent of women respondents are the age group of 25 to 40. The majority of respondents are educated, and 37 percent of the respondents obtained graduation in various subjects, and 20 percent of respondents are post-graduation holders. Women migrants are mainly working as engineers, teachers, accountants, nurses, cooks, and servants. Thirty-three percent of respondents are working as a nurse in different hospitals in the UAE.

It has been discussed that socio-cultural and political factors of the host land are important to migration, especially for women migration. Ninety-two percent of respondents reveal that they don't feel or experience any gender discrimination in the UAE. But eight percent of respondents have faced gender discrimination in the UAE. But in Kerala, 84 percent of respondents have faced gender discrimination many times and in many forms. Compared to Kerala, the UAE is providing a better status for women migrants. Women's security is a widely discussed subject, and it is a highly challenging one. Ninety-six percent of respondents are stating that the UAE is providing better protection for women and there is no difference between migrant women or native women in the case of security. But often justice is denied to domestic women migrants as they work as servants and cooks in Arab houses.

The social status of working women migrants has to be discussed seriously. Often unskilled working women migrants face discrimination in social status in their home town. Often society encourages women migration with the husband or other families for a job or not. Also, these unskilled women migrants working as servants are suffering a lot in home town and host land. But the skilled working women migrants enjoy a good social status in both host and homeland. There is visible gender discrimination in the migration of unskilled working women migrants without family. The proportion of working women migrants are decidedly less in the total number of labor migrants in the UAE. In the present study, 55 percent of respondents stated that woman migration without a husband or family is not supported by families and society. This is the reason behind the less number of women migrants in the Malayalee migration process to the UAE. But changes are happening in the pattern of women migration. Twenty percent of respondents stated that a lot of qualified women are interested to migrate, but lack of information and lack of networks in the UAE makes it difficult for them to move. Often migrant aspirants are cheated by travel agencies with fake visas and job opportunities.

Kerala Gulf migration has been dominated by men since its very beginning. The proportion of female working women migrants is decidedly less in the UAE at all times. But skilled women like teachers and nurses choose the UAE as one of the best destinations to migrate. An important finding is that comparatively Kerala working women migrants in the UAE enjoy good social status and social recognition. Respondents are giving an excellent mark on women's security and also at the same they are afraid about the women's security in the home town. But unskilled working women migrants, especially home servants, are suffering from a lot of troubles. Often both homeland and host land authorities are not able to stop these types of atrocities against home servants even though a lot of laws exist regarding the same. The majority of respondents stated that gender discrimination is less when compared with the home town. Single woman migration without family is not encouraged by society and family. It is one of the reasons behind the less number of working women emigrants in Kerala Gulf migration. The majority of women migrants are teachers and nurses, and a trend of skilled migration is continuing. Now the UAE is passing through a global economic recession, and it is visible in the development sector of the UAE. The rate of unemployment is increasing among the nationals and authority compels them to make a restriction on foreigners. It may affect both Kerala male and female working migrants. But skilled migrants can survive this situation. The significant problem is that the contribution of Kerala working women migrants to home town is not recognized properly. In the academic field also women migrants and their contributions do not get much attention. Gulf remittances are the backbone of the Kerala economy. Male as well as female working migrants contribute a large number of remittances to Kerala. Recently, society has started recognizing working women migration just like that of men's. This will help in the migration of more skilled migrants to different parts of the world.

Suggestions for future research

Kerala Gulf migration to the UAE has been passing through a crucial period especially in the time of Covid 19. Already the UAE has been facing the problems of economic recession, decline of the crude oil price in international market and increasing unemployment of locals etc. Now the spread of Covid 19 made another threat to the UAE economy. It is difficult to predict the future of Kerala Gulf migration in the present scenario. Irudaya Rajan, Professor of Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram observed that

“what is the future of emigration to and return emigration from the Gulf? My predictions are as follows: As of now, Kerala has 1 lakh return emigrants who could not go back due to the closure of airports in the Gulf earlier and in India later. Second, about 30,000 new emigrants could not go to the Gulf in spite of having employment visas. Third, once travel is allowed, we expect the first set of priority return emigrants —mostly dependants — to arrive in May 2020. The Gulf countries are already beginning to see the effects of the COVID crisis, with oil prices sinking to an all-time low. Most sectors will likely incur heavy job losses amid changing domestic policies. Thus, before September, we expect another 1 lakh to return” (Rajan, 2020 April 27).

Kerala Gulf migration has been witnessing major changes in its trends and patterns of migration since its origin. The present study reveals that Malayalee migrants are preferring to migrate to the UAE as large number of Malayalee migrants are already working in the UAE. But today, the rate of Malayalee migrants in the UAE is decreasing when compared with the rate of previous Malayalee migration to the UAE. The UAE is trying its best to arrange favorable situations for foreign workers. But often they are compelled to implement some strict policies to provide job opportunities for their locals. The global economic recession has affected the UAE seriously and it is visible in the job market. If the economic crisis of the present situation continues, it will affect foreign migrants negatively. First, it will affect

migrants and their dependence, then it will affect the Kerala society as a whole. Because five million Malayalees are depending on the Gulf remittances in Kerala (Malayalee Pravasi Census, 2013). There is a possibility for future research on “Kerala society without Gulf migration”. This research should focus on the socio-economic situations of Kerala without Gulf migration. The findings of the present study will help to lead this research.

Another important finding is that remittances are being spent in an unproductive manner and the tendency of luxury life is increasing among the migrants and their families. So it is essential to use remittances productively. There is also the possibility for future research on “Unproductive consumption of remittances in Kerala and its consequences”. The findings of the present study will help to conduct this future research as well. At the same time, majority migrants are not prepared for return migration. Kerala Gulf migration is a contract based labor migration and they have to return when their contract ends. The present study shows the possibility of large scale return migration from the UAE to Kerala. So there is a scope of future research on “Gulf return migrants in Kerala”. The findings of the present study will help to formulate a research framework on return migration.

The Government of Kerala has implemented a lot of welfare schemes for Malayalee migrants. But the present study shows that government welfare schemes did not reach semi-skilled and unskilled migrants. The government and cultural associations are now trying to spread awareness of these welfare schemes among the Malayalee migrants. So there is a further chance of research on “Effective Implementation of welfare schemes and Malayalee migrants”. The present study is based on the short term fieldwork conducted among the Malayalee migrants in the UAE. But there is a possibility of an ethnographic study to understand the socio-economic and political situation of the foreign migrants in the UAE in the future.

The migration from different parts of the world to the UAE is discussed very much but the migration of the UAE citizens to European countries and the USA is not much-discussed academically. So there is a chance of future research on trends and patterns of the UAE citizen's migration to Europe and the USA. In short, the present study is enlightening to different areas of future research. Because Malayalee migration is a vast area and its scope is increasing day by day.

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Glossary

Concept and Terms

Malayalee / Keralites: Malayalee/ Keralites are the residents of the state of Kerala, and their mother tongue is Malayalam.

Kerala Gulf Migrants / Malayalee Gulf Migrants: It refers to those Malayalee migrants who are working in six Gulf countries namely the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and, Bahrain.

Malayalee Expatriate: It refers to the Malayalee migrants who migrated to Gulf countries as labour migrant.

Single Migrant: The term single migrants refer to the person who is migrating without his or her family. The single migrant may be married or bachelor.

Gulf Migrant Household: Gulf migrant household refers to the homes in which at least one of the family members is working in Gulf countries at the time of study.

21st Century Migrants: The researcher would like to concentrate on 21st century Kerala Gulf emigration to the UAE. Twenty first century migration refers to the movement of Malayalee Gulf migrants especially from 2000 AD to 2017 AD. According to the primary readings, the researcher has found that a particular period is essential to conduct this study because of the nature and characteristics of the present study.

Professional Migrants: The term professionalism is a very popular usage in the present scenario. Everyone needs some professional touch in every activity. Professionalism is

associated with every sphere of life. Here, I would like to go through some popular definitions of professionalism or professional. Professional simply means *that relating to or belonging to a profession* ([https://en.oxford dictionary. Com](https://en.oxforddictionary.com)). Merriam Webster Dictionary explains that professional is those who engaged in one of the learned profession (www.merriam-webster.com). According to me , professional migrants are those who have acquired some skills and training to their profession and experience is not at all a matter. The purpose behind the categorization of professional migrants is that gulf migration is a vast area.

Trends of Migration: Oxford dictionary explains that trend is the general direction in which something is developing or changing (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>). Dictionary.com gives that trend is a public course or prevailing tendency. According to me, trends of the migration refer to the tendency of the people to move from one place to another place. It may vary from time to time and place to place. The researcher has observed that among the Malayalee community, Gulf migration was a glamour profession until reach at Arab desert. So, Malayalee gives preference to move to Gulf countries as a trend. Malayalee observed the result of the gulf migration and dreamt of migrating to gulf countries.

Patterns of Migration: Oxford dictionary explains that pattern is a regular and intelligible form or sequence discernible in which something happens or is done (<http://en.oxforddictionary.com>). According to me, the pattern of migration is the process of movement of people from one place to another place with particular sequences. In the case of Kerala Gulf emigration, Chain migration is the most visible pattern of migration. Chain migration is the process that one will emigrate and settle, then he or she will carry their relatives and near ones. I intend to find out the existing patterns among the Kerala Gulf emigrants and to check whether chain migration is leading.

GCC Countries: Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arabian state of the Persian Gulf namely: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

Questionnaire

(This is only for study purpose and collected data will be highly confidential)

Centre for *Trends, Patterns and Changes of 21st Century Kerala Gulf Migration to the United Arab Emirates*

Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, Telangana

PART 1

1: Name :

2: Sex : Male Female Other

3: Age :

4: Marital Status : Married Single Divorcee

5: Nature of Family: Nuclear family Joint family

6: Religion : Hindu Christian Islam Atheist others (please mention)

7: Current Location:

8: Domicile (District) :

9: Profession :

10: Annual Income:

11: Annual Leave:

PART 2

1: Why did you choose migration?

2: When did you reach in the UAE?

3: How did u get a visa to come here?

4: Did you migrate to any other country or other GCC countries for a job before you came here?

5: What was your profession before you came to the UAE?

6: Why did you opt for the UAE?

7: What was your expectation when you came to the UAE?

8: Are you satisfied with your job?

9: If you get another opportunity in other countries, will you choose?

10: In home town, all spheres are filled with other states' employees because of the absence of the native employees. What is your take on that?

PART 3

1: Where is your family

A: with me B: home town C: once visited here, but now home town

2: When was the last time you visited your home town?

3: What is the usual interval between your home town visit and how many days you spend at home?

4: How do you manage the absence of your family and home town?

5: How do you contact your family members?

6: Do you visit your home town for festivals and special occasions?

7: Did you help anyone from the homeland acquire a job in the UAE? If yes, how many people did you help, and what is their status now?

8: Do you like to invite your relatives and friends for a job in the UAE?

9: During the global economic recession, rapid fall of crude oil in the international market, and implementation of new rules , do you think the future will be friendly or challenging?

10: Recent data related to the number of Gulf emigrants are showing that the number of new emigrants is decreasing. What is your opinion? According to your understanding, what may be the reason?

11: Average amount of money that you send home monthly?

PART 4 (only for Female migrants)

- 1: Do you feel any gender difference here than in the home town?**
- 2: Do you feel any restriction as a lady emigrant?**
- 3: Compared to male gulf migrants from Kerala, female migrants are very less. Why?**
- 4: As a migrant lady, do you face any social problems in your home town?**
- 6: Do you have any advice or suggestion to women emigrant aspirants?**
- 7: Do you think that host land is more comfortable for ladies?**
- 8: Women can walk at midnight in the streets here but it is not possible in the home town. What is your view on that?**
- 9: What is your opinion about women security in home town?**

PART FIVE

- 1: Do you feel any isolation here as a foreigner?**
- 2: Do you face any discrimination here as a foreigner?**
- 3: Do you think that profession plays a vital role in social status here?**
- 4: As a Malayalee, do you enjoy any advantages or disadvantages?**

5: How do you celebrate your regional festivals here?

6: Your relationship with other foreigners?

7: How do natives treat you as a foreigner?

8: Would you like to participate in your host land festivals? If yes. How do you celebrate host land festivals?

9: Did you notice any obstacles to mingle with natives?

10: Do you face any difficulties among Malayalee emigrants with different caste, class, religion, region, and profession to mingle with each other?

11: As a Pravasi, you contribute a lot to the development of your nation especially to the native place- Kerala. But how does the government treat you?

12: Are you satisfied with the initiations of Governments for the Pravasi population?

13: There is a criticism that Gulf emigrants are spending huge money to construct big houses and using the money for unproductive means, your opinion?

14: Are you satisfied with the activities of the NORKA ROOTS?

PART SIX

1: How do you approach the rules and regulations of the host land?

2: Do you feel that there is any partiality among the foreigners and natives in law implementation?

3: It is true that the UAE is not a democratic country. What do you feel about your freedom?

4: There is wide criticism that Malayalees never obey any rules in the home town but they are well obedient in host land. Your comment?

5: Are you a member of any cultural organization in home town and host town?

6: Are you a member of any WhatsApp and Facebook group for the Pravasi population. If yes, how many groups?

8: Are you involved in any charity activities?

9: Most of the charity activities in Kerala are undertaken through the fund of Gulf emigrants. Your comment?

10: The present situation in the UAE is not friendly in the job market, once the return is never guaranteed. Do you have any precautions for return migration?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

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