CHAPTER IX

CASE STUDIES

London

Sunithamol Wilson is working as nurse in London. She is 25 years old and she is married. She is a native of India and migrated to London four years ago. She belongs to a Syrian Christian middle class family. Her parents are very old. She has five brothers and two sisters. One of her sisters is working abroad. All her brothers are engaged in agriculture in the homeland (Kerala).

Last year she got married. Wilson Joseph, her husband is 33 years old with Master’s Degree in Social Work. He is also from a middle class back ground and has to send money to his parents. He came to London in the year 2006 through his wife’s channel and has not yet found a permanent job. His current earning is sufficient only for tax payment and day to day expenditure though his wife gives a part of her income to him. Sunithamol Wilson has altogether spent nearly Rs.6.5 lakhs for migration. She had given Rs. 5 lakhs to agents and nearly Rs. 25,000 for getting VISA.

Before migrating to London, She worked one year in Bihar (Northern State of India) and then returned to Kerala. After three months of stay in Kerala she migrated to London. On reaching London she immediately got employment in the Government hospital. For the work of 6 hours per day and two days off per week, she gets a salary of nearly Rs. one lakh per month. She is in a good job suited to her education. She is happy in London with better house, better educational opportunities for children, better medical facilities, high status in the society and psychological relief of the problems she would have faced in homeland. After migration her asset holding has increased in terms of land, jewels and house.
She is a member of both Professional and Kerala Association in London. The close contact with Keralities and the Association helps her in times of need and she received the help of the association when she changed her house to another place.

Despite all these positive aspects of her international migration, she has to face some problems. She has problems with regard to leave and promotions. Further she and her husband lack the host country’s citizenship and hence need to pay high tax. The climate of London is also not conducive. However she wants to return to her native land after some years.

Lisha, a 35 year old is a Pharmacist in London. She went to London through her husband who has been a driver there. Before reaching there she worked 2 years in Saudi Arabia. Presently she is working in a Government hospital in U K. Both she and her husband work hard for earning. In a week she works 3 days and get 4 offs per week. She is more educated and thus earns more than her husband who has only a Pre-Degree (12 years of schooling).

They have one daughter of 2.5 years old. In order to look after her daughter she usually takes night duty and her husband works day time as they cannot afford the expenditure of child care facility available there.

Her mother is under the care of her relatives in Kerala. She has one sister also, who is working abroad. Her mother visits her occasionally in visiting visa and every year Lisha also comes to Kerala with her family. Even if Lisha does not own a house in UK, she owns a big house with more than 10 acres of agricultural land in Kerala. So migration has enhanced her social status here. She wants to return to Kerala after some years but lack of job opportunities pulls her back to London.
Qatar

Jolly Sebastian, 39 years old is a teacher. She belongs to a middle class Christian family. She has one brother and two sisters. Brother who is a nurse is working abroad and her sisters are also employed abroad. Her husband, Sebastian, is a Chartered Accountant. He is 40 years old and is working in Qatar. He reached there in 2006 through his wife. He got a permanent job there and his annual income is Rs 1.5 lakhs. He has saving to the extent of Rs.30 lakhs in India and Rs. 70 lakhs in Qatar.

Jolly had to wait for more than one year for migration. She used her own savings for migration and employment was arranged for her in Qatar by her husband through his friends. Lack of employment is the reason for her international migration. The transportation cost was nearly Rs 50,000. Before migration she was employed in a school in the home country and her foregone earning was Rs. 12000 per month. Before reaching Qatar she worked in other Gulf countries for about four years.

Now she is working in private sector. Her job is suited to her education. She gets nearly Rs.1.5 lakhs per month as salary. She is working 12 hours per day and there are 3 offs per week for her. She is not doing overwork and she did not take long leave also. She will get medical, educational and retirement benefits. She has promotion chances also. She is not a member of professional association. She does not send remittances to anybody in the native place. Her household income has increased to Rs six lakhs per month and expenditure increased to Rs 80000/ month. In her case, migration has enabled her to live in a better house, better education for children, better medical facilities, and better status in the society, better social condition and increase in asset holdings. She had bought 4 acres of land worth Rs 60 lakhs, house worth Rs 20 lakhs and jewels worth Rs 3.5 lakhs. She has enough time for religious practices and to participate in social activities. She is not a member of any association and she has enough time for recreation also.
The longer the women stay in destination countries, the higher is the
developed networks of friends and people. The people from same native place
celebrate parties, share information about housing and jobs and provide economic
support for each other (United Nations, 2006). Overseas workers become an
important political force; they have voice in the church, media, political parties
and civil society. Among the sample emigrants about 67 percent of the emigrants
are participating in different social activities. The highest proportion of them are
found in European countries (38 percent). She has two children. Both are in
abroad and are studying. The important problem faced by Jolly is in bringing up
the children, for there is nobody to look after them.

USA

Mable now living in Chickago, (USA) is a 40 year old doctor with
license. She frequently (3 – 6 months) visits Kerala without loss of the
citizenship. Her husband comes occasionally to USA in temporary visa. As he is
engaged in cultivation he likes to stay in Kerala. While studying itself Mable
went to USA. Her parents, brothers and sisters (all together eight) are in USA.
She has three children. They are now studying in Kerala and are under the care of
her husband.

Mable has to work hard for 13 hours continuously in USA. She likes
America because there are strict rules and everybody is very keen to observe it.
There are prejudices against emigrants in the destination country. Even patients
shout at her. Outwardly everything seems to be good but there is no good
relationship among the people. This is one of the problems faced by Mable.
There is Kerala Association in Chicago. Once in every two weeks, they gather
together and have prayers. Mable participates in the prayer service. Overall
Mable is happy about the gains of her international migration to USA.
Dubai

Philsy Tomy is 45 years old. She belongs to a Syrian Christian family. She passed general nursing. Her father is a retired teacher and mother is a housewife. She belongs to a middle class family. One brother is working abroad. After migration to Dubai she got married. Her husband is engaged in agriculture in her home country. She worked two years in Delhi and then migrated to Dubai. She had to wait for one year for getting the visa. She used her own savings for migration. The reason for migration is lack of employment with attractive salary. The pull factor of her international migration was that she was recruited by the Government of Dubai. Her total cost of migration was about Rs 40000.

The job is suited to her education. Her salary is nearly Rs 60000/month. She has to work 8 hours per day and one off per week. She is not assigned any over time work and she did not take long leave also. There is the opportunity of getting medical and educational benefits. If she stays there up to the retirement period, she will get the retirement benefit also. She is a member of professional association. She sends her income to her husband and children who are staying in Kerala.

As a result of migration, her household income and expenditure has increased to a great extent. She has savings in India also. Better house, better education for children, better medical facilities, more consumption, better status in the society, psychological relief, better social condition and increase in asset holdings are the non–economic gains of migration. She had bought 3.5 acres of land, built house worth Rs. 40 lakhs, jewels, and other assets in her native place.

Philsy Tomy had to change her behaviour and daily habits in the destination country. The treatment by natives is good. She suffers from stress. By talking to her children and other family members in the native country over phone she tries to overcome stress. She is not interested to return to the homeland because employment opportunities with higher levels of expected salary are not available in Kerala. She has economic autonomy in her house. She has received training in language skills. She has very good contact with citizens of India. In
times of crisis she has got help from friends and natives. Every year she visits her native place. She has very good contact with Kerala Association. The Association had helped her in booking air ticket during an emergency. According to her there is no conflict between natives and foreigners. She is very healthy and has enough time for religious practices. She is interested in social activities also. She is a member of voluntary agencies and clubs and sports association. She has enough time for recreation also. She has two children. They are studying in Kerala. The children are looked after by her husband and parents. Despite all these positive aspects of her international migration, she feels lonely as she is away from her children and husband.

Switzerland

Jessy Chellampuzha, is 35 years old. She is working as an engineer in Switzerland. She has two daughters. The first daughter is five years old and is studying first standard. The second daughter is only 1.5 years old. After graduation she worked in Bangalore (India) for one year and then she moved to Australia. She worked in Australia from 1992- 2003. After her marriage in 2003, she migrated to Switzerland because her husband was working there. Children were born in Switzerland.

Her husband is a nurse who earns more salary than her. Males are paid more salary than females in Switzerland. Her monthly salary is 3000 frank, and she does not have much saving. She gets 2 days off per week, 8 days off per month. According to her, Switz people generally do not like Asians due to colour complex. She has one brother and three sisters. They are also working abroad. Through family net works they all went abroad. Her plan is to return to Kerala in future. She has strong belief in the culture and customs of Kerala. She feels that the moral values in Switzerland are not suited to her children.
Ireland

Soumya, 27 years old, with Diploma in Nursing is working as an Aaya (one who takes care of children) in Ireland. She is single and belongs to a middleclass family. Before reaching Ireland she worked in a hospital in Delhi for two years. Her total cost of migration was nearly Rs 2.5 lakhs. Almost one year she waited in India for migration. High salary and high living condition are the pull factors that prompted her to migrate. She has to work 39 hours per week and her salary is Rs one lakh per month. After migration she purchased 2 acres of land worth of Rs 8 lakhs and the renewed her house for about Rs 8 lakhs. The treatment by natives according to her is good and she had to change customary dress, habits and behaviour in Ireland. She has economic autonomy in her house and in times of need, friends and relatives helped her. She visits every year her native place. She has enough time for religious practices. She is staying with her four friends and they are preparing food by themselves. So the monthly expenditure is comparatively lower. She is really happy in her life there.

High salary, good living condition high social status, timely payment of salary, freedom, and better employment are the attractive factors that prompted her to continue her work in Ireland. Entirely different culture, cannot attend family gatherings, loneliness, miss local festivals of home land, difficulty to reach Kerala in emergency are the minus points of migration according to Soumya.

Singapore

Swapna is 33 years old. She is an IT (Information Technology) worker in Singapore. Her husband is a mechanical Engineer and through him she migrated to Singapore. For two years she worked in Bangalore before emigration. She spent almost Rs 2 lakhs for her emigration. Her monthly salary is Rs 75000 and she has to work 12 hours per day. She wants to work only 3 days and she will get
4 days as holidays in a week. She will get promotion, if she passes the promotion test. In Singapore they are living in a rented house because the whole land is owned by the Government. Only very rich people can buy land. In her opinion the treatment by natives are not so good and the culture, habit, language and dress are more ‘related’ to Chinese. The Kerala Association is very active and usually celebrates all the Kerala festivals there. She has two children and her mother is staying with her to look after them. Up to one year parents can stay with them. She is happy in Singapore and has no plan of returning to Kerala in the near future.