CHAPTER 2
MIGRATION THEORIES AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The movement of people from one place to another is termed as migration and it is a complex problem having many dimensions. Although migration is a multidimensional problem and its causes are varied, it has been a subject of study to administrators, scholars and researchers all over the world. This chapter contains four sections and the first section examines the theoretical aspects of migration whereas the second section is a review of studies carried out about the general impact of emigration from Kerala to the Gulf countries, evaluating the impact of emigration on education and the third briefly reviews the reasons for the educational backwardness of the Muslim community in India in general and Kerala in particular. A brief profile of Malappuram district is included in the fourth section.

2.1. Theories of Migration

Several attempts have been made through researchers to explain migration in terms of various theories but these seem to be fragmented. Moreover, there is not a generally accepted theory that can explain international migration. The theories of international migration can be divided into two groups and they are classical migration theories that explain the commencement and consequences of international migration whereas the other group of theories explains the perpetuation of international migration.

2.1.1. Classical Theories of Migration

The economic assessment of migration involves both the redistribution of labour and the search of opportunity. For instance Adam Smith, father of economics, viewed that labour migration is due to the imbalance in the labour market at different locations (Lebhart, 2005). However, the oldest theoretical approach for explaining the phenomenon of labour migration is based on Ravenstein’s laws of migration in which he highlighted the concept of ‘search of opportunity’ as the main motive for migration (Ravenstein, 1889). Subsequently, a variety of studies has been proposed to explain the
commencement and causes of international migration. There are six prominent classical theories of migration and they are reviewed in this section. They are: 1. The Neo-Classical Theory, 2. The Situation Oriented Approach (Push-Pull Hypotheses), 3. The World System Theory, 4. The Dual Labour Market Approach, 5. Liberal Choice and Structural Theories; and 6. The Theory of Development in a Dual Economy. These can briefly be summarised as follows.

2.1.1.1. The Neo- Classical Theory

According to the neo-classical theory of migration, migration of labour is due to the differences in the real wages between the countries and migration of labour brings equilibrium in the international labour market which wipes away the wage differences between the countries. The neo-classical theory explains both the macro and micro aspects of migration. The neo-classical macro theory of migration dates back to Hicks (1932). According to this theory, the unbalanced distribution of capital and labour at the macro level causes inequality in wages and living conditions and leads to migration. The migrants move towards the places where employment, wages and other economic conditions are more favourable to them giving high chances of ending the differences in wages and living conditions between places. The neo-classical micro approach of migration (The Theory of the New Economics of Migration) considers not only the labour market but also the conditions of other markets such as the capital market or unemployment insurance market as reasons for migration. In addition, this theory also considers household strategy behind migration as the actual drive of migration is to change the source of income rather than maximize the income. This theory also emphasises the importance of financial transfers of migration in the context of socio-cultural changes. Moreover, this theory also helps to understand why individuals of a particular community are potential migrants. It also observes that poor people are less inclined to migration compared to the rich due to the high costs of migration (International Labour Organization (IOM), 2003).
2.1.1.2. The Situation Oriented Approach (Push- Pull Hypotheses)

This approach was formulated by Lee (Lee, 1966)\(^5\) for explaining the unpredictable nature of migrants. According to him, the push-pull factors are the most important factor in migration. Here, the push factors are the negative factors in the place of origin while the pull factors are the positive ones in the destination place. In addition to this, he suggests that the decision to migrate and the process of migration are influenced by factors associated with the area of origin, destination, intervening factors, personal factors and fluctuations in the economy.

2.1.1.3. The World System Theory

Wallerstein propounds the world system theory in which he attempted to link the development process of the countries with international migration. The theory asserts that the root cause of migration is the existence of unequal development between the central developed countries and the peripheral agricultural countries. According to his theory, the central countries will develop by exploiting the peripheral countries. Besides, this theory realises that migration is the natural consequence of globalisation and market penetration across national boundaries (Wallerstein, 1974)\(^6\). The theory also observes that globalisation, cheap air transportation and growth of multinational companies etc. lead to the enhancement of migration (Joly, 2000)\(^7\).

2.1.1.4. The Dual Labour Market Theory

According to this theory, the labour markets of industrialized countries have a dualistic structure - skilled workers (primary segment) and unskilled workers (secondary segment). The skilled workers are well-paid whereas the wages of unskilled workers in the secondary segment are low so that the local workers avoid secondary jobs. The employers do not pay higher wages to local workers to do the unpleasant jobs because they want to maintain wage differentials between the two segments of jobs. As a result of labour shortages at the bottom of the job hierarchy, employers are compelled to recruit the unskilled foreign workers, who do not plan to stay permanently, but accept the secondary job more easily since it pays them more income ((Piore, 1979\(^8\) and Stalker, 2000)\(^9\)).
2.1.1.5. Liberal Choice and Structural Theories

According to Ghosh, international movement of labour is caused by economic factors and he presents two models of migration theories. They are classical theories (liberal choice) and core-periphery conflict (structural) theories. According to the classical theories, workers move from low wage countries to high wage countries and this results in the efficient use of labour and narrows down the inter-country wage gaps. However, according to the structural theories, migration widens wage and income disparities as a result of the differences in the economic and political situations of countries (Ghosh, 1996)\(^{10}\).

2.1.1.6. Dual Economy Model of Development

As per the dual economy model labour migration has a key role in the economic development of a country. Thus, according to this theory, migration between countries is mainly due to differences in wages and employment opportunities. Moreover, this considers migration as an individual decision for income maximisation. Hence, the flow of migration over a long period of time is due to the prolonged disequilibrium that exists between the countries (Lewis, 1953\(^{11}\) and Tadaro, 1980\(^{12}\)).

2.1.2. Perpetuation Theories of Migration

The perpetuation theories of migration emphasize kin and friendship networks as important factors in migration. The interpersonal ties connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination that encourage circular migration and reduce migration risk (Tilly and Brown, 1967\(^{13}\)). There are a few theories that explain the continuation of migration out of which the two most relevant theories from the point of view of the present study are the Migration Networks Theory and the Theory of Cumulative Causation.
2.1.2.1. The Migration Networks Theory

This theory considers migration as a network process in which migrants help each other by communicating with the close friends and family members. They exchange information, provide financial assistance and even help to find a job for the migrant. It is asserted that such interaction facilitates migration by reducing the costs and risks. However, there are instances of migration through illegal means by friends and relatives that results in hardships and migrants become victims of violence and exploitation (IOM, 2003)\(^{14}\).

2.1.2.2. The Cumulative Causation Theory of migration.

The cumulative causation theory of migration is propounded by Massey and this theory states that continuance of migration is due to the intermingling of migrants with other persons of the origin. The theory also asserts that migration is sustained itself by creating more migration (Massey, 1990)\(^{15}\).

On the basis of the theories reviewed above, it can be concluded that there is not a common theory or principle that can explain different types of migration. However, these theories establish diverse factors, instincts and causes behind migration. As such, these theories expose important factors and features of emigration from Kerala to the Gulf countries.

2.2. Review of Studies on Migration

Emigration of Keralites to the Gulf countries and the consequent inward remittances to Kerala has been making certain beneficial changes in the state economy since the middle of 1970. As such, migration was subjected to various studies by researchers. As the major focus of the present study is the impact of migration on the economic and educational level of Muslim community in Kerala, an attempt is made here to review some of the important studies about migration from Kerala to the Gulf countries. More specifically, we have reviewed migration studies in general and studies that examined the impact of migration on the educational attainments of emigrant Muslim families in particular. The impact of migration from Kerala to the Gulf countries has been
viewed both at micro and macro perspectives. The micro perspective analyses the costs and returns of migration at household level along with the utilisation of remittances etc. On the other hand, the macro perception examines the impact of migration on aggregate variables such as savings and investment at the national or state level. Here, we have made an attempt to review some of the most relevant studies available in the literature.

2.2.1. Costs, Returns and Utilization of Remittances from Migration

Most of the studies about Kerala emigration to the Gulf countries are micro level studies and these studies have analysed the costs, returns and utilization of remittances etc. An attempt is made here at reviewing some of the important micro level studies related to the Gulf migration.

The study by Prakash (1978)\textsuperscript{16} examined the impact of Gulf migration on the socio-economic life of the family of emigrants on the basis of primary data. The necessary data was collected from 95 emigrant households in October 1977 in Chavakkad village of Thrissur district. The study found that there were about 136 migrants to the Middle East from among the 95 sample households. According to the study, the migration from Chavakkad was chain migration prompted by the encouragement and help received from the relatives and friends in the Middle East. The study also revealed that majority of the migrants was employed in unskilled or low skilled categories of jobs and worked as construction workers, military helpers or were engaged in small business affairs. According to the study, the average monthly amount sent by migrants ranges between Rs. 200 to Rs. 1500. Besides, the study also found that the remittances have helped the family of emigrants to improve their standard of living. With regard to earnings, more than 90 percent of the earnings were invested in land, buildings and a substantial amount was spent on marriages. The study found that the unproductive use of foreign remittances has resulted in an increase in the price of land, construction materials and wages of construction workers.

Nair (1983)\textsuperscript{17} tried to evaluate the impact of Gulf migration along with the causes of emigration. He also examined the socio-economic changes and characteristics of migrants, and the utilization of foreign remittances. According to the study, the pull and
push factors compelled the socially and economically backward Keralites to migrate to the Gulf regions. Further the study found that the remittances were the major source of income to the emigrant household and more than 50 percent of the income received from abroad was spent for consumption purposes. Thus, using up of a substantial amount from foreign remittances for consumption purposes establishes the fact that the bulk of the emigrants were from poor families. Moreover, the study also found an improvement in the possession of assets in terms of land, house, gold ornaments and consumer durables of emigrant family. The study also found that emigration has facilitated social mobility among emigrants which has brought favourable changes in the attitudes of the Gulf families towards education, health, customs, habits and life styles. He also observed that the higher economic and social status to the family of emigrants may create conflicts between the new rich (emigrants) and old rich.

Nair (1986)\textsuperscript{18} has analyzed the positive and negative impact of emigration at the household level. The social and psychological stresses faced by the emigrant families were identified as important negative effects while the attitudinal changes were the important positive effects of migration. The study also regarded that the emigrants became more positively inclined towards the education of their children, both boys and girls, but the freedom granted to daughters in matters of education, career and marriages was much more limited than that granted to sons.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES, 1987)\textsuperscript{19} attempted to evaluate the impact of Gulf remittances on the migrant households and on the state economy on the basis of 2568 sample households. Out of this, 1467 were migrant households, 690 non-migrant households and 411 were returned migrant households. The survey estimated that the average annual remittance sent by migrant was Rs.10455 and the average value of articles brought during a visit of the migrant was Rs. 7800 in the year 1987. The survey observed that the migrant households income were much higher than that of non-migrants and returned migrants which indicated that migration has increased the income of the migrant households. Moreover, the migrant households incurred higher expenditure on food, clothing, education, fuel, light, travel, entertainment, and medical expenses etc. An examination of the utilization pattern of remittances showed that the
migrant households were not investing much in productive activities and invested mainly in the construction of house, purchase of land and gold ornaments etc. The study also found that there was considerable increase in the assets of migrant households after the migration.

Gulathi (1993)²⁰ examined the impact of male migration on women during the year 1990 on the basis of primary data in a pocket of migration concentrated village of Trivandrum. She observed that migration empowered the women left behind at home to a great extent. She found that migration breaks women’s isolation, increases mobility and brings them into contact with a wider network of institutions like banks, educational institutions, post offices and international communication patterns which equips them with greater confidence and more responsibilities. The study observed that in times of extraordinary situation, women get support from their relatives, friends and even from institutions.

Nair (1998)²¹ examined the utilization pattern of foreign remittances in Kerala economy on the basis of primary data collected from 3 regions Varkala, Chavakkad and Tanur from 3 districts - Thiruvananthapuram, Trichur and Malappuram respectively-which had the heaviest concentration of emigrants to the Gulf countries. According to the study, the foreign remittances were used unproductively and this has its socio-economic implications in the society in the form of inflation, rising land values, increasingly skewed distribution of income, social stratification and tension. The study also found that there was a positive correlation between the duration of emigrants stay at the destination place and the volume of remittances. He has suggested governmental measures in the form a dependable and trust worthy financial intermediary to help the emigrants to maximize the benefits from the large inflow of foreign remittances to the society.

Sekhar (1998)²² has examined the impact of male migration on the family at home on the basis of primary data. The study was carried out in 1990 in two high migrating villages (Kadappuram in Chavakkad block of Trichur district and Valavannur in Tanur block of Malappuram district) of Kerala. He observed that the emigration of male exposed the traditional village woman to an entirely different situation. He also found that the women left behind adjusted very well to the challenges in life brought on by the
male migration. Women in the absence of males from migrant households gained self-confidence, self-esteem and better status within the family. He also observed that the male migration has triggered a manifold empowerment of rural women in Kerala which has a significant impact on the conservative rural set up in Kerala.

Devi (1998)\textsuperscript{23} examined the status of migrant women workers from India to 8 countries of the Middle East namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE, Yemen and Dammam. The study was on the basis of primary data collected from 504 women migrants. According to her study, majority of the women migrants from India to the Middle East have enjoyed a comfortable living much better than what they had in India before their migration. However, the unskilled category of women migrants especially those in the lowest categories like housemaids, ayahs, cleaners etc. have a very low status and were abused and exploited.

Prakash (1998)\textsuperscript{24} examined the economic impact of Gulf migration on Kerala economy on the basis of secondary data. He found that Kerala accounts for more than half of the total Indian migrants to the Gulf and for nearly half of the total remittances to India. The study found wide spread changes in Kerala economy on account of Gulf migration especially in savings and investment, in consumption, poverty, income distribution, labour market and regional development. He also observed that the incidence of migration is higher in Malabar region and the subsequent flow of huge remittances have accelerated growth in the tertiary sector and finally in the economic growth and urbanization of this region. His study also reported an upsurge in the prices of land, construction materials, consumer goods, food articles and the charges on health, education, transport etc.

Nambiar (1998)\textsuperscript{25} analyses the process of migration and its outcome with references to return emigrants. The study was carried out in 1992 and he randomly selected 335 Gulf returnees from four districts of Trivandrum, Trichur, Malappuram and Kasarkode which have large concentration of Gulf returnees. The study finds unique features of Gulf migrants that they were predominantly young, less educated and mostly hailed from socially backward and economically poor families. The study reveals that the migration associated economic prosperity bye-passed a fairly large number of emigrants
as they were engaged in household activities, service sectors and construction work, which earned them very low income. He also observes that the rehabilitation measures taken by the state government were inadequate.

Prakash (2000)\textsuperscript{26} examined the profile and the current economic status of return emigrants along with the causes of return on the basis of both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from a sample of 80 return emigrants of Varkala town while secondary data was collected from the Ministry of External Affairs, from the estimates of Department of Economics and Statistics. An analysis of the saving capability of returnees found that they were not able to save much as most of them worked as construction labourers, mechanical staff and drivers, sales workers, electrical staff and such other categories where earnings are comparatively less. Much of their earnings were spent on covering the cost connected with their travel, food and accommodation and health care from their wages. Among the causes of return emigration, lack of job opportunities, reduction in wage rate, strict enforcement of immigration laws and health problems were the major reasons of return. The study also observed that majority of the returnees was unemployed and were facing serious financial problems. He suggested certain rehabilitation measures like implementation of a pension scheme, provision of bank loans to engage them in self-employment, establishment of an agency to provide correct information relating to various aspects of emigration and a change in the educational system to match them with the changing needs of the destination countries.

Zachariah, \textit{et.al}, (2000)\textsuperscript{27} studied the demographic impact of emigration from Kerala to the Gulf countries. The study also analyzed the impact of emigration on elderly population and gender issues in migration and their impact on Gulf wives. The study observed certain structural, behavioral and demographic changes in Kerala due to migration. Although there was the matter of loneliness and other health problems, most of the elderly people in the migrant household received care and protection from their children. The study pointed out that even though the Gulf wives suffer psychological stress, loneliness and added responsibilities, the migration of their husbands has improved them into self-confident managers of their households.
Another study by Zachariah, *et al.*, (2002)\(^{28}\) evaluated the problem of return emigration in Kerala concentrating on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of return emigrants before and after emigration. Their analysis showed that the return emigrants do not have much occupational mobility and majority of them were found to be contributing little to the real development of Kerala. Moreover, the study also found that those who return to Kerala do not possess much talents or training and entrepreneurial leadership qualities. The study suggested that the banking system in Kerala should meet the cost of rehabilitating these unemployed return emigrants as they benefited the most from emigration.

Zachariah and Rajan (2004)\(^{29}\) also examined the employment, wage and working conditions of Indian workers in UAE on the basis of primary data collected from 361 Indian emigrant workers in Abudabi, Dubai and Sharja. The study also examined the nature of contract migration, the demand for migrant labour and the wage and working conditions of the return emigrants. They found that changes in UAE government’s immigration policy, economic recession and completion of major infrastructural projects have substantially reduced the demand for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers since 1996. The study revealed that the largest share of Indian emigrant workers (36.0 percent) with primary and below secondary level of education are engaged in unskilled, semi-skilled categories in construction, production and transport activities whereas about one-fifth of them with degree worked in professional, technical and clerical related work. Three-fourth of the workers were employed on regular employment with monthly wage. According to the study, nearly one-third of the Indian emigrants were living in worker camps and in majority of cases, the number of persons per room ranges from four to six. The study observed that in future, the UAE needs certain categories of skilled workers, technicians, computer workers, heavy equipment operators, electrical workers and professionals such as doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, accountants etc.

Zachariah, *et al.*, (2004)\(^{30}\) compared the socio-economic consequences of migration between 1999 and 2004 and they found that on a comparative basis negative effects of migration are far more than its positive effects. The study found consumerism as an impact of emigration and about 24 percent of the cash remittances were used for
educational purposes and they estimated Rs.6540 per year as the average cost of education of a family. The remittances have played an important role in increasing the proportion of highly educated persons in Kerala and have converted Kerala itself into a ‘Gulf’. The study observed that emigration has resulted in a high rate of unemployment in Kerala.

Zachariah and Rajan (2007) examined the short and long term development implications of migration, remittances and employment. The study was based on a sample of 10000 households selected from the 14 districts of all the 63 taluks of the state using a multi-stage random sampling technique. The study reported a decline in the emigration rate per 100 households from 26.7 in 2003 to 24.5 in 2007. The rate of Non-Resident Keralites also declined per 100 households from 39.7 to 36.2. The study also found that the emigrants and return emigrants were ready to utilize their wealth for developmental activities of Kerala. They observed that international migration has remained absolutely stationary during 2003-2007 due to the demographic contraction and increase in the employment opportunities both in the private and the self-employment sectors within the state.

The study also revealed a decline in the unemployment by 40 percent during 2003-2007 and the employment has increased by over 3 lakhs persons with a 100 percent increase in the private and 20 percent increase in the self-employment sectors.

The study by Zachariah and Rajan (2007) examined the economic and social dynamics of migration in Kerala during 1999-2004. For this, they collected data from the same households whose data was collected by the Kerala Migration study in 1998. The study analyzed the trends in migration, remittances, pattern of employment and unemployment, consumption habits etc. They found a highly dynamic employment sector in Kerala as nearly half of the labour force changed their sectors of employment during the five year period under study. According to the study, nearly 80 percent of the unemployed in Kerala found employment within five years whereas only 20 percent remained unemployed for more than five years. The study indicated that aging could have contributed to the increase in unemployment rate in Kerala during 1999-2004. The fact that emigration has been a factor which contributed to the high order of unemployment
rate in Kerala during 1999-2004 was more firmly established with concrete evidence by the panel data.

Another study by Zachariah and Rajan (2008)\textsuperscript{33} examined the pattern of costs of services on education, health, child birth and finance in Kerala in 2007. The study selected sample households from all the 63 taluks in the state. The study compared households with and without non- Resident Keralites. Although, migration was not found to be a major factor influencing the cost of education, the study found that migration had played an important role in households’ spending behaviour of emigrants, non-emigrants and return emigrants. Similarly, the study indicated that there was not much difference in the average cost of treatment between NRK and non- NRK households. The impact of emigration on the costs of basic services was almost similar on NRK and Non- NRK in Kerala.

Shylaja (2010)\textsuperscript{34} examined the impact of labour migration on the socio- economic and demographic characteristics of the people in Kerala. The study was based on primary data collected from both rural and urban areas of Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta and Malappuram. She found that emigration has a very significant role in the change of large families to small families. Moreover, the study also found that emigrant households have maintained better hygienic and sanitary conditions, higher standard of living, and also acquired more assets on account of the inflow of remittances. The study also found that the odds ratio of empowerment of women in the emigrant households is two to four times higher than that of non-emigrants. The educational aspirations for their children in emigrant households increases with the increase in the duration of stay abroad although the study found a slight gender preference prevailing among the women members in the emigrant households. Nuptial behaviour of emigrant and non-emigrant households indicated that the practice of dowry was more among the emigrant households than that of the non-emigrants households. The study concluded that emigration has increased the spacing between two consecutive births.

Zachariah and Rajan (2010)\textsuperscript{35} have examined the dimensions of emigration, return emigration and remittances in the context of a surge in oil prices. According to the study, during the period 1998 to 2008, the number of emigrants has increased from 13.6 lakhs to
21.9 lakhs and return emigrants has increased from 7.4 lakhs to 11.6 lakhs, the amount of remittances has increased from 18.4 thousand crores to 43.3 thousand crores, the educational status of Kerala emigrants has substantially improved and the Muslim community still accounts for more than 40 percent of the total emigrants from Kerala to the Gulf. The study also found that during the period 2003-2008, the unemployment had decreased by 1.505 million persons. On the other hand, the study observed that the regional disparity has widened due to emigration and only 16-18 percent of the households received remittances from abroad. However, the study found that remittances still remain as the single most dynamic factor even in the greatly improved economic scenario of Kerala.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2010) conducted a study about the impact of global recession on remittances and migration from Kerala. The study assessed the effects of recession on loss of jobs abroad and on return of migrants to Kerala, the countries where the returnees had worked, the sector in which they worked before recession and the socio-economic characteristics of the returnees. According to the study, there were 1.73 lakh returnee emigrants of which 63 thousands were direct victims of recession and about 28 thousands could not find a job after their return. The recession had stopped the remittances of 90 thousand households in Kerala whereas the remittances of about 4.31 lakh households have gone down. The study also found changes in the occupation of emigrants as a result of recession and this could be one of the reasons for the low rate of unemployment among emigrants. Though there was an increase in remittances during the recession period, many sub- groups showed very significant decreases in the remittances. The study estimated an increase in unemployment to the tune of 37,000 and the gross job loss was 54, 000 whereas the net loss of employment was 22,000. Even during the peak of the recession when there was return of emigrants in to Kerala, there was emigration to the Gulf.

Rajan and Narayana (2010) examined the impact of the global crisis on emigrants and return emigrants from South Asia and the Gulf Co-operation Countries (GCC) in terms of the sectors of the economy affected, the changes in GDP growth and employment of the expatriate labourers. The study found that the global crisis has
affected the GCC economies through falling oil prices, depressed property and equity prices, low investor confidence and reversal of capital flows. In addition, they analyzed the impact of the crisis on the South Asian migrant workers. The study estimated 2.64 lakh emigrants returned from Gulf to South Asia although the actual loss of jobs would have been more than that as some of migrants who lost jobs continued to stay in Gulf expecting to get some other jobs. On account of the crisis, the study did not find a decrease in the flow of remittances although the survey found loss of jobs to 13 percent of the emigrants and nearly half of them had found another job and a quarter was illegally staying in Gulf. Moreover they analyzed the conditions of returnee emigrants in the South Asia and found 73 percent of them were unemployed even after one month of their return although their proportion had declined to 42 percent. The unemployed emigrants survived on past savings, borrowing, support from family members and a few had sold assets to meet expenses. The study suggested the countries of origin and destination to take necessary steps to reduce the hardships to workers losing jobs.

Zachariah and Rajan, (2012) examined the role of Kerala’s Gulf connection in migration along with the geographic and religious aspects of migration. The study found a downward trend in migration and also observed that the origin of emigration and remittances from Kerala move towards the northern side of Kerala. Moreover, the study found that emigration from Kerala is dominated by Muslims who accounts for about 44.3 percent which is very much higher than their population (26.5 percent). The study also analysed the macro impact of remittances and emigration and found that remittances accounts for about 31 percent of the state’s domestic product. The state per capita income was only Rs.52000 without remittances which would be Rs. 68,000 if remittances were taken into consideration. The study also observed brain drain and its negative impact on the economy. One of the major observations of the study was that in recent years, the relatively better off persons emigrate and improve their income level and consequently emigration has resulted in income inequality. In addition, the study found that emigration from Kerala is experiencing a decline due to the demographic contraction of young workable age population, declining wage differentials between Kerala and the Gulf region, competition from other states in India and countries abroad and the rapidly increasing cost of emigration.
2.2.2. Impact of Emigration on Distribution of Income, Savings, Investment and Balance of Payments

The macroeconomic perspective of migration studies analysed the impact of Gulf migration on the macro variables like savings, investment, distribution of income and balance of payments. Here, we have reviewed some of the available macro level studies about the impact of emigration on the above mentioned macro variables.

The study by Nayyer (1985)\textsuperscript{39} analysed the impact of international labour and the associated financial flows on the economy as a whole. He found that the financial flows from international labour migration are much more important in the macroeconomic context in relation to savings and investment in the economy. However, the study did not find any significant influence of inflow of remittances on domestic savings and investment. On the other hand, the study confirmed that remittances by migrants have improved the balance of payments position of the country. The study found that migration has a positive impact on exports although its impact was found to be very small on imports.

Isaac, \textit{et.al}, (1992)\textsuperscript{40} examined the impact of remittances and net capital flows on the balance of trade of Kerala. The study was based on the secondary information collected from various sources. The study found that the inflow of remittances have helped to a certain extent to reduce the deficit. Moreover, the study reported that benefits of inflow remittances were not confined to migrant households alone and the benefits have reached to their kith and kin. The Study found an increase in consumption expenditure in Kerala as an impact of migration as Kerala’s per capita consumer expenditure was lower than the national average till the early seventies whereas it rose significantly above the national average after seventies. The study also inferred that migration brought a definite increase in the physical and financial savings in the region although lack of investment in productive sectors landed the economy into stagnation.

Nair and Pillai (1994)\textsuperscript{41} examined the impact of external transfers on the regional economy of Kerala during the period 1975-76 to 1988-89 on the basis of RBI data. They also examined the impact of remittances on different sectors of the economy and also on
the factor and product markets. The study found that the inflow of foreign remittances enabled the state to sustain a high level of consumption. The study reported that consumption expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure decreases while the proportion of investment as a proportion of total expenditure increases with the duration of stay abroad. The study also found that consumption expenditure outweighs all other expenditures in the short run while investment takes precedence over consumption in the long run.

Kannan and Hari (2002) constructed a time series estimation of remittances from abroad to the Kerala economy for the period 1972-2000. The study found that during the early nineties, remittances to the Kerala economy assumed a significant share of the state income ranged between 17-24 percent during 1991-92 to 1997-98. They observed that Kerala economy has directly benefited from the liberalization of foreign exchange rate in India.

They constructed a Modified State Income by adding the remittance income to the Net State Domestic Product which made Kerala’s per capita income 49 percent above the national average at the end of nineties. During the same period, the study also found that Kerala’s per capita consumer expenditure was 41 percent above the national average. The study found that remittances have made a significant positive impact on the savings of Kerala which made Kerala comparable to the east and East Asian countries. They found that at the end of the nineties, remittances have reached such levels that they were well above the total government expenditure, value added in manufacturing and even the value added in industrial sector as a whole.

Pushpangadan (2003) examined the impact of remittances on consumption and economic growth in Kerala during the period 1980-2000. He found that the remittances have resulted in the growth of service sectors mainly telecommunication, transport, trade, hotels and restaurants and the growth of service sectors was found to be much higher than the growth of the commodity producing sectors. According to the study, emigration has accelerated the demand for telecommunication as the demand for telecommunication came mostly from the spouses and elderly living away from the households to be in touch with their near and dear. The study also noted the combined effects of forward and
backward linkages of the growth in tourism, trade and transport have resulted in the
growth of hotels and restaurants. The study also found that migration has resulted in an
increase in the demand for consumer durables, growth of services in the informal sector
for the repair, maintenance and serving of these goods, the mushrooming of private
institutions in health and education. However, the study pointed out that the Commercial
banks failed to play a significant role in the intermediation of the huge surplus generated
by foreign remittances for economic growth. The study concluded that the consumption-
led growth cannot be sustained unless the state actively involves in providing world class
training facilities for labourers to improve their skill and employability in global markets.

Harilal and Joseph (2003)\textsuperscript{44} examined the impact of migration and remittances on
the regional economy of Kerala using the Dutch Disease model of Carden and Neary in
1982. By using the ‘resource movement and the spending effect’, the study identified the
service sector as the booming sector of the economy owing to the flow of remittances.
They also observed that the productive sectors of the economy suffered a lot as the share
of agricultural sector to the Net State Domestic Product has declined in the economy. The
study also found that emigration has resulted in higher levels of consumption and the
weak production base of the state made Kerala an outlet for the neighbouring states.
However, they did accept the attitude that the Gulf boom is a boon to the Kerala state.
The study suggested governmental intervention in the use of the remittances to strengthen
the commodity producing sectors of the regional economy.

Mallick (2008)\textsuperscript{45} analysed the impact of remittances on private consumption and
investment and its implications on the economic growth during the period 1966-67 to
2003-2004. By applying the time series models, he used general consumption model to
examine the impact of remittances on the private consumption. He found that remittances
have a positive influence on private consumption, on debt, on money supply and income.
The study also found that remittances have some adverse effects on private investment
although it has a neutral effect on the growth rate of output which may be an important
factor in generating inflation in the country. He suggested governmental measures for
diverting the unproductive uses of remittances to productive uses so as to raise the rate of
investment and growth of real output.
The above review of studies about migration from Kerala to the Gulf reveals the impact of migration in general on the socio-economic conditions of the society as a whole. As the present study is mainly concerned about the impact of Gulf migration on education, we have made an attempt to review the studies which analysed the impact of migration and foreign remittances on education. Hence, the following section reviews studies which are mainly concerned about the impact of emigration on education.

2.2.3. Impact of Foreign Remittances on Education

There are not many studies about the impact of emigration and foreign remittances on the education of the children of emigrant households. However, here, we have made an attempt to review some of the studies about the impact of migration on education. Researchers differ in their opinion about the impact of remittances on education which may be partly due to differences in the period of study, differences in the characteristic features of the region from where data were collected and method of analysis etc. As already stated, although we have a large number of studies about the impact of emigration on Kerala economy in general, specific studies about the impact of remittances on education in Kerala is very much limited. Hence, some of the important studies about the impact of emigration and foreign remittances on education carried out in foreign countries have been listed here.

Stahl and Arnold (1986)\(^{46}\) made an extensive study about the impact of foreign remittances on the economic development of Asian countries. They analyzed the spending pattern of households and found that remittance income is mostly spent on food, consumer durables and housing and less likely to spend on investments.

Using the household survey data of 1997, Cox and Ureta (2003)\(^{47}\) analysed the impact of remittance income and non-remittance income on education. They found that while both remittance income and non-remittance income contribute positively to school retention rates among those aged between 6 and 24 years old in El- Salvador. The study also found that the effect of remittance income on education contributes more than that of the non-remittance income. Further the study found that inflow of remittances reduced dropout rates in El- Salvador. In fact, their study showed that the capacity of remittances
in reducing dropout rates in urban area is larger than the capacity of domestic labor income. The study showed that a 10 per cent increase in the inflow of remittances reduces the likelihood of leaving school by 5.4 per cent in urban and 1.4 percent in rural through the first through sixth grades. In seventh grades through twelfth, the likelihood of leaving school is reduced by 2.7 percent in urban and 2.6 in rural areas.

Lopez Cordov (2005)\textsuperscript{48} carried out a study about the poverty reducing capacity of remittances in Mexico. He found that the incidence of poverty declines with the increase in remittances. The study also found that the relatives of migrants benefitted the most from remittances and the very poor families who cannot afford costs of migration did not benefit from remittances. The study also reported that the literacy rate among young adolescents and the per capita income of Mexico grew positively with increases in remittances.

Leod and Molina (2005)\textsuperscript{49} examined the impact of remittances on inequality and poverty in the Latin American countries and they observed that the remittances have actually reduced the incidence of poverty in these countries. The study also found certain changes in the social life of the people especially in the field of education as a result of remittances as remittances helped to increase investment in human capital by the emigrant’s family.

Adams (2005)\textsuperscript{50} conducted a study about the impact of remittances on household expenditure and investment on the basis of data collected from Guatemalan households. He analysed the expenditure pattern of the households and found that the remittance income compared to other sources of income is more likely to be spent on education.

Yang (2006)\textsuperscript{51} evaluated the impact of exchange rate shocks on the remittances and household investment. More specifically, he analysed how changes in the real remittance levels affected investment in human capital of remittance receiving households in Philippines. He observed that the rise in real remittances has increased the number of children attending school and reduced the child labour in the country.

Calero, \textit{et.al}, (2009)\textsuperscript{52} in their study examined the relationship between remittances and human capital formation in Ecuador. The study found that remittances
have increased the school enrolment, particularly in rural areas and for girls, although remittances have no significant impact on child labour. They also found that remittances have resulted in the substitution of private schooling for public schooling, which they interpreted as an improvement in the quality of education.

Malligan and Bohara (2010) analyzed the effects of remittance income on child welfare in Nepal in terms of its effect on child educational attainment and child labour. For this they used two Heckman full information maximum likelihood regressions. The study found both remittance and non-remittance income have positively and significantly contributed to the child welfare. However, the welfare effect of remittance income was significantly less than that of the effect of income from other sources.

2.2.4. The Impact of remittances on education in Kerala

The oil boom and the consequent rise in the demand for workers in the Gulf countries opened a new phase in the emigration process in Kerala. Increasing numbers of Keralites began to migrate to the Gulf countries from early 1970s and this has brought a substantial amount by way of inward remittances to the state, particularly in to the homes of emigrants and most of them were from poor families. There are evidences that during the 1970s and 1980s, migrants were poor unskilled workers. The receipt of considerable amounts in the backward and conservative houses of the Muslims in Malappuram, Trichur, Kozhikode and Cannanore districts and the exposure they got from the outside world have brought enormous changes in their attitude towards their lifestyle, religious practice and in education. There are a few studies about the impact of migration on the educational performance of the family members of the migrants in Kerala. We may briefly review these studies in the following paragraphs.

The Commerce Research Bureau (1978) analysed the impact of foreign remittances on the regional economy of Kerala. The study found that the emigrant parents spend liberally on the education of their children although there were inter-regional variations in the spending on education among the migrants’ households. According to the study, in 1975, the highest per student expenditure was in the already educationally developed region of Chengannoor and the lowest was in the educationally backward
regions of Chavakkad and Tirur. However, the study observed that such inter-regional differences in the educational spending among migrant’s households will narrow down with the passage of time.

Mathew and Nair (1978) evaluated the socio-economic characteristics of emigrants and their family and they found a positive correlation between emigration and development of educational infrastructure in the migration centres. Emigration led to the emergence and growth of technical and vocational training institutions in various trades like construction related courses, motor and machine operations, welding, tailoring etc.

Jaleel (1982) analysed the role of education in the economic growth of Malappuram district and the study observed that the economic backwardness of the people in the Malabar region is one of the main reasons for their educational backwardness which again causes for their economic backwardness. However, the study found that the recent educational improvements in Malappuram district are motivated by the inflow of foreign remittances to the households in this area.

Gulathi (1983) examined the impact of male migration on the family in which she observed certain beneficial changes of foreign remittances in the field of education. The study found children from emigrant households were attending the expensive English medium schools in preference to the state run or state aided private schools which confirm that Emigrant parents are interested in sending their children to English medium schools.

Nair (1986) analysed the impact of Gulf migration and found that emigration brought a favourable change in the attitude of the emigrants towards the education of their children, both boys and girls. Their aspiration about the employment and social status of their children went up consequent up on the exposure to the wider world. He observed that 80 percent of the migrants have at present higher aspirations than before about the education of their children. However, the study noted that the freedom granted by emigrants to daughters in matters of education, career and marriages were much more limited than that of the freedom granted to sons.
Misiriya (1990) examined the impact of emigration on education and found that emigration was a leveler and promoter of education among the educationally backward Muslims of Kerala. The study observed that the propagation of English medium schools in the private sector in Kerala was definitely an outcome of emigration. The emigrant parents preferred expensive elitist schools and special tuition for their children. The study also found a high dropout rates at school and college level among the children of the non-emigrants households. In addition, the study found a direct relationship between year of emigration and the educational attainments of the members of the family.

Sidheeqe (1992) evaluated the impact of Gulf Migration on the socio-economic life of the people in Malappuram. The study analysed the impact of Middle-East life and the influence of the western education and found that expansion of trade and commerce, new economic opportunities and more and more contact with the rest of the world brought about fundamental changes in the social structure in the study area. He pointed that the Gulf boom has evoked mixed response in the field of higher education. The study observed that the emigrants within their limited resources are in favour of educating their children to their maximum. The objective behind the provision of better education is to help them to get good jobs in the Middle-east countries. They are very careful to provide better education to their children which they could not get during their childhood owing to their poverty. Moreover, the study reported a rapid growth in the number of residential English medium schools in the area where about 64 percent of the students were either from emigrant family or their expenses was met by relatives in Gulf.

The study by Prakash (1998) analysed the impact of Gulf migration on Kerala economy and found that emigration has resulted in a qualitative change in the vocational educational system in Kerala. The study observed two important trends in the field of education since 1980s in the state especially in the migration centered areas. The first trend was the growth of vocational training centers which provide courses related to construction like aluminum fabrication, lift operation, motor operation, machine operation, fire and safety, tailoring, plumbing, welding, and other paramedical courses etc. These courses help the emigrants to find jobs in the Gulf regions. Another trend observed by the author was the emergence of private unaided English medium schools
and self-financing higher educational institutions in the state under the management of the emigrants. He observed that the changing employment opportunities in the Gulf countries had its impact on shaping these institutions in Kerala.

Zachariah, et al., (1999)\textsuperscript{62} examined the impact of migration on Kerala’s economy. The study observed an improvement in the field of education as the most visible effect of migration. However, there were differences in the educational expenditure between migrant and non-migrant households. Migrants have used a significant part of the remittances for the education of their children. However, the study found the average number of years of schooling of the members of non-migrants is higher than that of the members of emigrant households.

Salim (1999)\textsuperscript{63} evaluated the impact of migration on the educational development of Malabar region and the study revealed that migration has significantly improved the economic status of the people that led to an educational renaissance in the region. Moreover, his study reported that migration has enhanced mobility of women in the region. According to him migrants receive social remittances in the form of newer ideas, beliefs, attitudes and broader cultural understanding that led to a significant transformation in the orthodoxy and rigidity in the outlook of the Muslim community.

Sabira (2006)\textsuperscript{64} assessed the impact of emigration on social mobility of the Muslim women and observed an upward mobility in the educational front by Muslim women in Malappuram. A higher educational mobility was found among the women of emigrant households more than the women of non-emigrant households which she attributes to emigration. In migrant households, women were significantly mobile between generations irrespective of their parents’ educational status while in non-migrant households; parental education was an important factor in the educational mobility of daughters. She also reported that inspite of a significant change in the attitude of Muslim community towards modern education, the social rigidity and the religious orthodoxy existing in the community has been playing a harmful role in promoting the mobility of women.
Jaleel (2009) evaluated the socio-cultural impact of Gulf migration in the Malabar region. He observed that migration has changed the life style, consumption, spending on health and education. According to him, a social transformation has taken place among the Muslim community due to the Gulf emigration and the inward remittances. Moreover, he added that as a result of migration and remittances, the orthodox Muslim organizations that once vehemently opposed the western education, now established huge educational complexes consisting of women’s colleges that provide English education. Thus, emigration has changed the tradition-bounded Muslim community to modernity and enabled them to cope up with the new challenges in life.

The above review of studies pertaining to the impact of foreign remittances on education indicates that there is a positive correlation between the flow of remittances and the educational attainments of the children of emigrants. The increased family income and the experience and exposure they had abroad have widened the minds of an average Keralite and their vision about the education of their children.

2.3. Educational Backwardness of Muslim community

Education is always been one of the central pillars of social development and investment in education is most essential for better human development. There is no need to explain the importance of education in the economic growth of a country and society as a whole. In India, although we have the mission of universalization of elementary education, certain backward segments are there still in the society. Among the educationally backward segments, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims are the most backward.

Even though Islam gives great importance to education, the Indian Muslims have not shown much interest in education. The historic, political, economic, social and cultural environments under which they live may be the reasons for their educational backwardness. The misinterpretation of Islamic perceptions by the less educated religious leaders (ulemas) is mainly liable for developing a conservative and adverse attitude towards modern education among the Muslims (Sikand, 2008). Undoubtedly the complex nature of the educational backwardness of Muslims was subjected to study
by various scholars in different disciplines. We may briefly review the studies that examined the causes of educational backwardness of Muslims in India and Kerala in the following paragraphs.

2.3.1. Educational Backwardness of Muslim community in India

The study by Ansari (1989)\textsuperscript{67} observed that after the conversion to Islam, the bulk of indigenous Muslims did not enjoy any special patronage. They did not undergo any upward socio-economic mobility by virtue of being Muslims. He opined that lack of opportunities and motivation were the main reasons for the backwardness of Muslims. He reported the fact that the bulk of the Muslims basically belonged to socially backward class and comprises of occupational groups of peasants, artisans and handicraftsmen. They were deprived of the benefits of patronage system even during the time of Muslim rule. He found that the Muslims have developed a value system and pattern of living which always retarded the growth of education among them. According to the study, the major factor in the educational backwardness of Muslims is the Muslim factor and the social milieus of the Muslims discourage them from modern education.

The study by Mondal pointed out that Muslims being a cultural minority in India, have a feeling of inferiority complex, which have adversely affected their desire for education. In addition, the study reported that, frequent occurrence of communal riots, non-availability of educational facilities in the rural areas and lack of motivation from social reformers for modern education are the barriers in the educational upliftment of Muslim community (Mondal, 1998)\textsuperscript{68}.

There are studies which established that the major reason behind the high illiteracy and educational backwardness of Muslims was economic. The poor economic condition of most of the parents barred them from sending their children to schools. On the other hand, poverty forced the parents to send their children for work as there are evidences that child labour was rampant among the Muslims (Momin 1973\textsuperscript{69}, Shukla 1975\textsuperscript{70}, Sharma 1977\textsuperscript{71}; Engineer 1978\textsuperscript{72}; Chitnis 1983\textsuperscript{73}; Peer 1991\textsuperscript{74} and Mondal 1998\textsuperscript{75}). The study conducted by Saxena (1983)\textsuperscript{76} about Public Employment and Educational Backwardness among Muslims in India showed that Muslims were almost
ten times educationally backward compared to other communities in the country. He also opined that the root cause of educational backwardness of Muslims was their economic backwardness and this was the reason for their poor representation in employment in the country.

There are a few studies which concluded that lack of awareness among the Muslim masses about the importance and utility of modern education in the contemporary times is another reason behind the educational backwardness of Muslims (Ahmad 1980, Kamat 1981 and Siddiqui 1984).

However, studies which evaluated the education of Muslim girls generally observed that the proportion of girls attending schools is still disappointing although there is a steady increase in the number of Muslim boys in the schools.

The studies carried out about the educational backwardness of Muslim women identified several reasons behind this educational backwardness. Among them, the practice of pardha, early marriage, misinterpretation of Islamic prescriptions, problems of getting suitable marriage partner for educated girls, demand of higher dowry from educated bachelors, parental negligence, lack of separate schools and colleges for girls in remote areas, criticism from relatives and community for sending grown up girls to schools and colleges are the important ones (Lakhandawalla 1971 and Rokaiya Begum 1992).

Besides these micro level studies, there are some national level studies by institutions and agencies about the reasons for the educational backwardness of Muslim community. For instance, the Saachar committee Report (2006) observed that the Indian Muslims is one among the most economically and educationally marginalized communities in India. The report observed that although the status of Muslims is somewhat better compared to the status of SC/STs, their status is very poor compared to other segments of the society. The report observed that the participation rate of Muslims in the field of higher education, in the high earned employment, their economic condition and educational facilities available to them were very poor. The report observed that social set up that existed kept them away from getting good education and led them into
the vicious circle of backwardness. Likewise, the study by ICSSR (2010) found that the inadequate socio-economic infrastructure was a major cause for the backwardness of Muslims in the 90 districts, where Muslims are concentrated in the country. Thus, lack of access to schools and colleges, inadequate number of educational institutions, low literacy rate and low parental income, poor implementation of integrated child development schemes, poor participation of Muslims in the professional and managerial cadre etc. led them to backwardness. Alam, member secretary, ICSSR noted that there is an inverse relationship between the proportion of the Muslim population and the availability of educational infrastructure in villages which is the main reason for high number dropouts among the Muslim students.

2.3.2. Educational backwardness of Kerala Muslims

Even though the factors behind the educational backwardness of Muslims in India and Kerala are common, Muslims in Kerala have specific reasons for their educational backwardness. Various reasons have been identified for the educational backwardness of Muslim community in Kerala and the following are some reviews.

The Portuguese domination during the 17th century and the British rule during the 19th to 20th century had adversely affected the plight of Kerala Muslims. There were rivalry and suspicion between the Muslims and the European powers during that period which created an aversion to the Kerala Muslims against modern education. Here, we will review some of the available studies which examined the reasons behind the educational backwardness of Kerala.

Rawther (1978) in his study examined the socio-educational problems and the level of aspirations of Muslim students in Kerala. The study was based on the data collected from the coastal areas of Ponnani taluk of Malappuram district. He found economic backwardness as the most important reason behind the educational backwardness of Muslim students. Poor economic condition forced the children to assist their parents in work which compelled the students to discontinue their studies even in the initial stages of their studies.
Menon (1981)\textsuperscript{86} analysed the various sociological reasons for the educational backwardness of Muslim community in Kerala. She opined that social evils like polygamy, divorce, seclusion of women etc. were the factors which inhibited the educational progress of Muslim community in Kerala. The study observed that, in spite of the government encouragement in the form of fee concessions and grants, the number of Muslim girls attending vernacular schools were very small in Kerala. Hence, the study observed that the increased educational facilities could not increase the number of literate Muslim women in Kerala owing to the opposition from the family.

Kareem (1989)\textsuperscript{87} in his study examined the development implications of educational backwardness of Muslims. He found that Muslims are socially, educationally and politically backward and this is due to the high incidence of poverty, illiteracy, low income and irregular employment. He also found that Muslims were late to enter social transition and their educational backwardness has a negative effect on their socio-economic standards in terms of asset ownership, employment structure, assistance received from financial agencies etc. Thus the study found Muslims are caught in a vicious circle of low economic status that leads to educational backwardness, which in turn prevents Muslims from reaching higher employment categories.

Anand (2002)\textsuperscript{88} studied the plight of Muslim women in Chungathara Panchayath in Malappuram District. The study found unique features among Muslim women in this area such as low educational attainment, high level of ignorance, cases of early marriage and motherhood; lack of social mobility etc. However, she found progress in the field of education in this area and concluded that this is due to the influence of Gulf migration.

Having reviewed the major studies about the impact of emigration on Kerala economy, we may briefly summarise the major characteristics of Malappuram district on the basis of secondary data.

2.4. A Brief Profile of Malappuram District

We have chosen Malappuram district as our area of study as this district is considered as a representative district for Muslim community. The proportion of Muslims to the total population of this district is 70.9 percent. Moreover, this district has the
largest concentration of Muslim emigrants from Kerala to the Gulf regions and about one-third of the households of this district are direct beneficiaries of foreign remittances. Hence, this district is the most appropriate district for a micro level study to analyze the impact of emigration on economic and educational changes of the Muslim community in Kerala.

Malappuram literally means the land atop the hills and this district was formed on 16th June 1969. The district is bounded by the Nil Gris of Tamil Nadu in the east, Arabian Sea in the west, Kozhikode and Wynad district in the North and Palakkad and Thrissur districts in the South. It has a geographical area of 3,350 square kms which comes to 9.13 percent of the total area of the state. In terms of area, Malappuram district is the third largest district of the state. The district is located at 75° to 77° east longitude and 10° to 12° north latitude and has three natural divisions - low land, midland and high land. The topography of this district is highly undulating: starting from the hill tops covered with thick forest on the east along the Nil Gris. It gradually slopes down to the villages and small hills, before finally ending on sandy flat coconut groves in the west. This topography has greatly influenced the socio-economic life of the people in this region.

The headquarters of the district is at Malappuram. The district has two Revenue Divisions and six Taluks. There are 100 grama panchayaths; 15 block panchayaths and five Municipalities in the District. It has two parliamentary constituencies and 12 assembly constituencies.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the people of Malappuram district as about 75 percent of the population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture in this district. There are about 2.08 lakh hectares of land available for cultivation in this district. The main crops grown are paddy, coconut, tapioca, arecanut, cashew nut banana, rubber, pulses, ginger, pepper and betel vine. The district has 70 Kms of sea coast stretching from Kadalundi Nagaram in the north to Palappetty in the South. Ponnani is the major fishing port of this district.
The district Net Domestic Product at factor cost at current prices is 6786.24 crores whereas the district per capita income is Rs.16294, which is reported as the lowest among the districts of Kerala. District-wise distribution of work participation shows that Malappuram has a work participation rate of 6.63 percent which again is the lowest among all the districts.

The religion-wise distribution of the population in Malappuram district shows that Hindus constitute 23.7 percent, Muslims 70.9 percent and Christians constitute 5.4 percent (Census, 2011). As such, religion wise, Malappuram district is dominated by Muslims. The rate of child marriage (35.7 percent) and crude birth rate (27.92 percent) of this district is very high.

This district sends a major part of the total migrants from Kerala to the Gulf region and the migration status of this district has certain special features. There are studies (Zachariah and Rajan, 2012) which perceived that migration to the Gulf region has made tremendous changes in the Malappuram district as it is the largest recipient of foreign remittances in Kerala. Hence, we have chosen this district for examining the impact of emigration on the educational attainments of the socially and economically backward Muslim community.

The summary picture of the key geographical and socio-economic characteristics of the people of this district is presented in the following table 2.1.
Table 2.1
Geographical and Socio-Economic Variables of Malappuram District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area (in sq km)</th>
<th>3550</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>41,10,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio: Females/1000 males</td>
<td>1096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of population</td>
<td>1158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>93.55 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male literacy</td>
<td>95.78 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female literacy</td>
<td>91.55 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work participation rate</td>
<td>24.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male work participation</td>
<td>42.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female work participation</td>
<td>6.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male unemployment rate</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female unemployment rate</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
<td>Rs. 22416.34crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>Rs.54224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The oil price hike in the Middle East in 1973 has attracted workers from Kerala to these countries which have brought salutary changes in the socio-economic situation of the Keralites. However, a considerable portion of migrants from Kerala to the Gulf region were from the Muslim community who were the backward segments of the society. Studies carried out about the educational backwardness of Muslim community found that one of the major reasons for their backwardness was their poor economic condition. However, the Gulf migration and the consequent inflow of foreign remittances have enhanced the economic status of Muslim households which in turn has increased the educational expenditure of the emigrant families.

We have reviewed the studies which examined the impact of migration on Kerala economy and Muslim community in Kerala. Our review shows the following gaps in the
literature: (1) Most of these studies examined the impact on Kerala society in general and analysed only the general socio-economic characteristics and there is a dearth of studies examining the impact on different religions. (2) The studies which examined the impact of foreign remittances on the level of education analysed only the impact on the society as a whole and have not analysed the impact on Muslim community as they are the major emigrant community of the state. (3) It is generally accepted that Muslim community in India are socially and economically backward while the Muslims of Kerala are economically and educationally far better than the Muslims of other states. There are scanty evidences that this better educational achievements of Kerala Muslims are due to the Gulf migration. The fact that Muslims of Kerala has a predominant position in the migration process to the Gulf countries also points that the better economic and educational status of Kerala Muslims may be due to the Gulf migration. However, as stated earlier, there is dearth of studies which examined the impact on the educational attainments of Kerala Muslims as a result of migration. As such there is a need to examine the impact of migration on the educational achievements of Muslims in Kerala.

Notes and References


82. Sachaar Committee Report, (2006): Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India, Prime Minister’s High Level Committee, Government of India.
