4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed for the study on “Impact of replacement migration on wages and employment on construction sector in Kerala” is discussed under the following headings:

4.1 Selection of the area
4.2 Selection of the sample
4.3 Source of data
4.4 Period of the study
4.5 Quantitative techniques
4.6 Limitations

4.1 SELECTION OF THE AREA

To carry out the study the investigator has selected Thrissur district of Kerala state. Kerala means the “land of coconuts”. It is a small state situated in the South west corner of India. The state of Kerala was formed on 1st November 1956 by uniting Travancore Cochin State and Malabar under the states Reorganization Act of 1958. The state covers an area of 38,863 sq.km. It lies between north latitude 8’18” and East longitude 74’52” and 77’22”. Kerala is separated from the rest of India by Western Ghats in the East and Arabian sea in the west. It is bounded by Karnataka in the North, Tamil Nadu in the East and South and Arabian sea in the West. As per 2001 Census, the total population of Kerala is 3.64 crores and which accounts for 3.47 percent of the total population of India. Kerala has a total of fourteen districts. In Kerala,
poverty reduction through employment generation and income generation has been attempted both by the governmental and non-governmental agencies. For the current study, Thrissur district has been selected because 1) Thrissur is the cultural capital of Kerala, 2) the people are more enterprising in the non-farm activities than farm activities, 3) studies are not available on the socio-economic conditions of the migrant workers of Thrissur, 4) easy accessibility for the investigator to collect the data since it happens to be the native place to conduct study. In this study out of 16 block panchayaths, six municipalities and one corporation of Thrissur district, three panchayats (Edthiruthi 32, Kodakara 45, Eriyadu 23), two municipalities (Irinjalakuda 25, Chavakkadu 25) and one corporation (Thrissur 50) were selected, based on purposive sampling method (Plate 4.1).

Sample Area - Plate 4.1
4.2 SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE

According to an ILO study (1972) reported by Meier (1984), the characteristics of informal sector are: “easy of entry, reliance on indigenous resource, family ownership of enterprise, small scale operation, labour-intensive and adopted technology, skills acquired outside the formal school system and unregulated and competitive market”. Because of these characteristics, the workers are appointed at a lower wages with less job security.

To know the consequences of migration 60 families were surveyed who lived near the accommodation of the migrant workers. And the researcher selected the migrant workers those who have completed minimum 1 year of stay in the district of Thrissur. Majority of the migrant population in the selected area are engaged in construction works. This study is based on primary data, collected from a random sample of 200 respondents drawn from the selected area (Plate 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4).

Construction Workers - Plate 4.2
Construction Workers - Plate 4.3

Construction Workers - Plate 4.4
4.3 SOURCE OF DATA

The data for the study were selected through primary source by administering an interview schedule (Appendix) among the respondents of the study and data needed for the study were thus obtained. An interview schedule method was used to collect the information from the respondents. Interview makes it possible a face to face meeting and enables a process of interstimulation between investigator and interviewee and this helps in securing the data not obtainable by method that do not involve interpersonal relationship (Gupta, 2005).

4.4 PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted during the period of December 2011 to May 2012.

4.5 QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

4.5.1 Regression Analysis
4.5.2 Correlation Analysis
4.5.3 Chi-square test
4.5.4 Bar diagram
4.5.5 Sub-divided bar diagram
4.5.6 Pie Diagram

4.5.1 Regression Analysis

Regression analysis, in the general sense, means the estimation or the prediction of the unknown value of one variable from the known value of the
other variable. It is a statistical device used to study the relationship between two or more variables that are related.

In the words of M.M. Blair “Regression analysis is a mathematical measure of the average relationship between two or more variables in terms of the original units of the data.” Regression analysis was applied to analyse state wise influence on wages and employment and nature of work.

4.5.2 Correlation Analysis

Two variables are said to be correlated if the change in one variable results in a corresponding change in the other variable. That is, when two variables move together, we say they are correlated. Correlation is defined as “the tendency of two or more groups or series of items to vary together directly or inversely.”

4.5.3 Chi-square test

Chi-square is a measure which evaluates extent to which a set of the observed frequencies of a sample deviates from the corresponding set of the theoretical (expected) frequencies of the sample. The measure of Chi-square enable us to find out the degree of discrepancy between observed frequencies and theoretical frequencies and thus to determine whether the discrepancy so obtained is due to error of sample or due to chance.
4.5.4 Bar Diagram

Bar diagrams are the most common type of diagrams used in practice. A simple bar diagram is used to represent only one variables. Bar diagram was drawn to show classification of workers according to annual income from employment.

4.5.5 Sub-divided Bar Diagram

In these diagrams each bar represents not only the whole of magnitude but also the various components of which it is composed of.

4.5.6 Pie Diagram

Pie diagrams are very popularly used in practice to show percentage break downs. Pie chart was drawn to show problems faced by the migrant workers in three different sectors.

4.6 LIMITATIONS

The study covers only the respondents, who are employed in the selected occupations. It doesn’t cover all the types of occupations. During the course of study the researcher could reveal that the migrants and the contractors are reluctant to open out the factors fully. The frequent movements from the cite to cite also were another problem faced by the researcher.