Preface

Migration and its impacts have attracted the attention of researchers since the past several decades. Yet, it continues to be a subject matter of considerable interest even in recent times due to the ever changing global economic, political, demographic and social scenario. Economic migration constitutes 93 per cent of the global migrants and has been an issue demanding considerable attention of policy makers around the globe more recently due to the realization of the fact that if managed effectively, the impacts of such migration would reap significant development solutions for the migrants, the home as well as the host countries.

In this regard, migrant worker’s remittances, especially to the developing countries, has not only increased manifold within the past few decades but has also observed as the most development friendly link between migration and development has attracted and continues to draw considerable interest of scholars and policymakers. Numerous studies on remittances and its impacts have found its positive effects on not only the macroeconomic position of the receiving countries but also on migrants and their families. Currently, various forms of remittances such as individual and collective remittances and their impacts on households and the communities to which the remittance sending migrants belong are being explored and studied. Distinctions are also being made between economic and social remittances and monetary and technological remittances, all of which can possibly be channelized towards development especially through adopting a bottom up approach which is from households to communities to the nations as a whole. Although developmental impact of remittances can be studied from various angles (migrants, host countries, home countries especially the rural communities), from the point of view of development in the developing countries receiving remittances, understanding the impact of remittances on the receiving societies become an important subject matter having substantial policy implications.

Hence, focussing on the impact of international remittances on the receiving areas involving migrant households and their village community, this doctoral study attempts to explore the impact of migrant worker’s remittances on the receiving
households and village development in two selected high remittance receiving villages in India that belong to two high remittance receiving states of Gujarat and Kerala. India being the highest remittance receiving country in the world for almost the past two decades and remittances forming almost 3 per cent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product with substantial positive effects on the balance of payments situation in India, it certainly needs more detailed investigation through a multilevel approach to analyse its effects and implications for development in the receiving households as well as the villages.

This doctoral thesis comprises of 9 chapters. **Chapter 1** introduces the broad theme of the study which is ‘migration and development’. It also discusses how remittances are perceived to be a major link between migration and development and the major debates in this particular field of research. **Chapter 2** reviews the existing theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of remittances at both international and national levels. **Chapter 3** provides a description of the research methodology adopted by the study to explore the impact of remittances at the village level in the two states of Gujarat and Kerala. **Chapter 4** presents an overview of remittances to India covering the broad macro aspects of migration and remittances within a brief historical context and present facts and figures. It also presents a brief description of the macroeconomic policies in India related to foreign money inflows in the form of remittances and Non Resident Indian deposits and also analyses the relative importance of remittances to other current as well as capital account receipts in the Indian Balance of Payments. **Chapter 5** describes the socio economic profile of the migrant households surveyed including the profile of the migrant members belonging to the households and their migration process. **Chapter 6** describes the quantum of remittances that flow to the migrant households in the villages surveyed, the modes used by the migrants to transfer the money and the end uses of the remittance money by these migrant households. **Chapter 7** reports the results of the analysis of the data obtained from the household survey. This chapter describes the impact of remittances on the households receiving them in the two villages. **Chapter 8** highlights the impact of remittances on the village economies in the two selected villages. The approach adopted was a meso level approach aimed at exploring the multiplier effect that remittances received by the households have on employment and trade in the villages studied. **Chapter 9** presents the summarized findings of the study with conclusions.
drawn from the entire study. This chapter also presents recommendations for future research and policy.