CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION, SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

Human migration, in broadest sense, is the movement of a people from one place to another prompted by economic, social or political situations. Thus, it results in permanent or temporary shift in peoples’ residence. It can be within the borders of a country (internal migration) or between countries (external migration). Again, such a movement can take place in two different ways. The first one is a forced one, which is effected by factors like political pressures, religious persecutions, natural calamities etc at the place of origin. The second one, which is voluntary in nature, is caused by mainly economic considerations like material gains, employment opportunities etc. “Migration, or more exactly mobility, of some form is a universal experience and it is rare for anyone to spend his or her entire life within the boundaries of a single village or city ward and, when this does occur, it is more likely to be due to some physical or mental handicap than to choice”\(^1\).

Various streams of migration paved the way for the development of modern civilisation.\(^2\) Migration has now become an important area of study due to its complex role in the fast changing contemporary society. Migration has favourably or adversely influenced the socio-economic conditions of both the areas of origin and destination. It has not only influenced the social


\(^2\) The study of history reveals that dissemination and distribution of various religions and cultures, ideas and beliefs, plants and animals are the effects of human migration that has been taking place since the beginning of human history. For instance, as far Kerala is concerned, major religions like Islam, Christianity and Judaism reached here from foreign lands through trader migrants. New agricultural products, now common in Kerala, like cashew-nut, guava, pineapple, papaya etc are the contributions of the Portuguese. The art forms like *Duff Muttu*, and *Arabhana Muttu* which are prevalent in Kerala are the contributions of the contacts with the Arabs. Important incidents in world history can also be linked with migration. Fall of the Roman Empire in 5th century A.D. was the result of the migration of Central Asian tribes whose movement was blocked by the building of the Great Wall of China is only one example.
or economic conditions of human life but other aspects like health, physical environment, political awareness, behaviour, culture etc.\(^3\) United Nations has estimated in 1994 that in the last half of the 1980s, somewhere between 750 million and one billion people migrated.\(^4\) In short, migration remains to be one of the ever-recurring incidents of human history, causes and effects of which encompasses the entire domain of human life.

The case of the state of Kerala is not an exception. From time immemorial, this land has been in contact with the outside world. The region witnessed various streams of in-migration\(^5\) as well as out-migration.\(^6\) The out migration gained significant momentum since 1970s when thousands of Malayalees went to West Asia seeking better opportunities.\(^7\) The opinion made by two scholars regarding the migration from the state is significant. “Migration has provided the single most dynamic factor in the otherwise dismal scenario of Kerala in the last quarter of the 20\(^{th}\) century … Kerala is approaching the end of the millennium with a little cheer in many of its homes, thanks to migration and the economic returns that it brings. In Kerala, migration must have contributed more to poverty alleviation than any other factor including agrarian reforms, trade union activities and social welfare legislation”.\(^8\) The above observation made by the KMS (Kerala Migration Study) depicts clearly what migration to Kerala is. The ‘Survey Report on Activity Status of Migrants and Returnees’ prepared by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, states


\(^{4}\) Ibid.p.4.

\(^{5}\) We use the term ‘in-migration’ to refer to migration to the state.

\(^{6}\) The term ‘out-migration’ is used to refer migration from the state including both internal and external migration.

\(^{7}\) In this study the terms like ‘West Asia’, ‘the Gulf’, and ‘the Middle East’ are used to mean the newly six oil rich Arab countries on the coast of the Arabian Gulf viz. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

that 13,83,697 Keralites are living abroad.\textsuperscript{9} Out of these 12,71,467(91.8\%) are living in six Arab Gulf countries viz. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.\textsuperscript{10} Today every 23\textsuperscript{rd} Keralite is an emigrant.\textsuperscript{11} According to the study conducted by Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, it is estimated that an amount of Rs.14157.88 crores received by the state as foreign remittances from all sources in the year 1999-2000 and it is 22.63\% of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of the state.\textsuperscript{12} As one scholar rightly remarks, “Migration to West Asia is now Kerala’s biggest industry. We have hardly any growth in terms of conventional goods being produced, be it in agriculture or industry. Our growth depends on how many of our labourers leave Kerala to work in West Asia”\textsuperscript{13}

The windfall remittances received by the migrant households in Kerala has led to an unprecedented material affluence especially in Gulf pockets, which is known by the term Gulf Boom. Gulf boom has its impact on each and every facets of Kerala’s socio-economic and cultural life. Both positive and negative changes have been noticed. For the last three decades, the outcomes of the windfall remittances made to the state, are being reflected in the life style, consumption behaviour, health, education, building construction, environment, mode of transport, social mobility etc. which is not subjected to academic analysis in a historical perspective. Such a study is highly essential to a better understanding of the social, cultural and economic history of Kerala.

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid., p. 71.
\textsuperscript{11} Here, an ‘emigrant’ refers to those who migrated outside India.
\textsuperscript{13} Leela Gulati, \textit{In the Absence of their Men: The Impact of Male Migration on Women}, (Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1993), p.10.
Significance of the problem

Historically speaking, India has witnessed and actively taken part in five distinct streams of international migrations in the past. First the ‘indentured labour migration’ mainly to tropical and sub tropical lands. It was an assisted form of migration started to fill the vacuum in the supply of labour generated by the abolition of slavery in British territories. Due to severe criticism from many corners, it was abolished by the Government in 1916. The second one, which is known as ‘Kangani system of migration’, recruited labourers first to Srilanka and then to Malaya and Burma. It received its name from the Tamil word ‘Kangani’ or headman who recruited the labourers and who was also his supervisor abroad. Though migrants recruited under this system were supposed to be free, the cash advances tied them into a cycle of debt bondage.\(^{14}\) The system was abolished by the Government in 1938. Third type of migration was ‘free emigration’ of traders, skilled and semi-skilled workers to East Africa and other countries. It developed along with indentured and Kangani systems and continued until the Second World War. The migrants belonged to all the categories including merchants, financiers, construction contractors, Policemen, caretakers, guards, salesmen, traders, shopkeepers, street side vendors and many others. Between 1800 and 1945 about 3 million Indians migrated to different parts of the world.\(^{15}\) Fourth international migration was that of the educated professionals to countries of Europe and North America. A number of doctors, engineers, nurses and other educated professionals migrated to the above regions after the Second World War.\(^{16}\) The last emigration took place when thousands of people migrated to countries of West Asia in response to discovery of crude oil and subsequent developmental activities triggered in those countries. Though this migration


\(^{15}\) Ibid. p.461.

had started in 1940s in trickles, it became a great flow since the oil price hike of 1973.

What was the role of our state in the above-mentioned streams of international migrations? All these labour movements, barring the professional migrations and migration to West Asia, had started and ended before the formation of the Kerala state. Though Kerala had been a net in-migrating region until the first half of the 20th century, the region had not kept aloof from the out-migration trends that swayed the country from the middle of the 19th century. But a striking aspect of migration from the state is that except in the professionals’ migration to Europe and North America, in all other four international migration streams, Malabar region sent the largest number of migrants. In 1931, the number of Malayalees in Malaya was 34,898. Out of these, 25000 migrants were from Malabar region. In the same year the Malayalee presence in Burma was 12218. Of these 11163 belonged to Malabar. According to the ‘Sample Survey Report’ published by the Economic and Statistics Department, Kerala, out of a total 1084650 employed migrants in six Arab Gulf countries 515833 (47.55%) hails from six districts of Malabar. If we add Trichur to this, the number will reach to 683867 (63.04%). According to a latest study, the northern districts of Kerala are gaining importance as areas of emigration. ‘As years pass, more and more Kerala emigrants emanate from districts such as Malappuram, Kannur and Kasargod. In Malappuram, 71 percent of the households have in them either an emigrant or return emigrant each.’ Whereas, in the migration to US and

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17 In this study the term Malabar is used to denote the six northern districts of the Kerala state – Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod
19 Government of Kerala, n.9, p.71.
European countries the southern districts of the state dominate. Out of a total migrants of 44123 in America and European countries, 37466 (84.91%) belonged to former Travancore-Cochin region. Only 6657(15.08%) come from Malabar.\(^{21}\)

Another striking feature of the migration from Kerala is in the case of educational status of the migrants. 63.94% of the migrants from Malabar are having a general education of below SSLC.\(^{22}\) The corresponding figure to Travancore-Cochin region is 36.6%. The female participation rate is also interesting. Of the total male migrants from Kerala 48.36% belong to Malabar and 51.62% belong to Travancore-Cochin region.\(^{23}\) The corresponding figure to female is 18.99% and 81.01%. The Muslims who form only 20% of the state’s population contribute 54.3% of the migrants and the same community receives 47% of the total remittance.\(^{24}\) Among the Muslims, 3 out of every 4 households (74 percent) have an NRK each but among the Hindus less than 1 in 5 households (22 percent) only have an NRK each in them.\(^{25}\) Whatever may be the statistical variations, the migration of a large section of people to West Asia, kindling the hopes of life of a large section of people and there by influencing the social life of Kerala justify the significance of the problem.

**Purpose**

An important dearth with regard to migration study worldwide is the lack of involvement on the part of historians. Kerala is not an exception. Historians have shown little interest to migration study. Most of the social sciences, especially Economics, Geography, Sociology and Demography have considered the topic, in their own way and came out with their views.

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\(^{21}\) Government of Kerala, n.9, p.71.

\(^{22}\) Ibid. p.73.

\(^{23}\) Ibid.p. 69.


Economists for example, conducted studies on job opportunities, volume of remittances, balance of foreign exchange, economic impact etc. The sociologists were concerned with the characteristics of migrants, family background etc. Demographers on the other hand pinpointed the influence of migration and population change. Actually, migration especially a voluntary one, does not happen all of a sudden. It is the response of a society or a community (positive as well as negative) to the economic, social, political and cultural changes over the years. Hence it is the students of history, who are bound to probe into those historical undercurrents that necessitated migration.

In all the international migrations that Kerala witnessed in the past, the dominance of Malabar and the Muslim community is widely acclaimed. A comprehensive historical review of the region at the time of the genesis of migration will provide ample evidence for the dominance of Malabar and its folk in international migrations. Unfortunately, no serious attempt has been made towards this direction.

The Gulf Migration Study, published by Centre for Development Studies Thiruvananthapuram, has estimated an annual remittance of Rs.12640\(^26\) crores to Kerala in the year 2000 from Gulf countries alone. Half of this amount came to Malabar region and the Muslims received 47% of these remittances.\(^27\) According to a present study made by Centre for Development Studies, international migrants have sent about 24525 cores as remittances to Kerala in 2006 – 07.\(^28\) The share of the seven northern districts of the state in the total remittances (61%) was almost double the share of the seven southern districts (39%).\(^29\) A scholar has opined that the crisis that the Kerala Model faced was eased to a great extent by the money sent by the

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\(^{27}\) K C Zachariah et al, n.24, p. 22.
\(^{29}\) Ibid. p.11.
emigrants. The opinion of another scholar is very significant. According to him the ups and downs of our economy is decided by the money sent by the expatriates, working in the hot sands of Arabia and not the pseudo – intellectuals sitting in Delhi or Thiruvananthapuram making statistical calculations. According to him, the impact made by the money sent through illegal channels is more than the impact made by the remittances through legal channels. Out of every 22 person in the region one is a migrant to West Asia. It may seem surprising that the largest bachelor community is living in the Gulf countries. Almost every family in Malabar is directly or indirectly affected by various outcomes of migration - absence of family head, windfall remittances etc. The absence of about 13 lakhs Malayalees from their families and their native land and the flow of huge remittances, undoubtedly have serious multi-dimensional repercussions in the society. Kerala in general and Malabar in particular, are witnessing the advent of new trends in the socio – cultural arena of people’s life. According to Keynes, if a man is enjoying a windfall increment in the value of his capital, it is natural that his motives towards current spending should be strengthened. A change in perspective in migration study is necessary— from economic aspect to social and cultural aspects. A study of the influence of Gulf affluence upon the various facets of social life and cultural aspects—values, principles, ethics, traditions, lifestyles, attitudes, manners etc provide grounds for serious socio-cultural analyses.

Quantitative data are used extensively in the present study. But it doesn’t mean that the study is a mere statistical analysis. On the contrary, the

32 Government of Kerala, n.9, p.68.
work is a historical investigation into the Socio – economic background of Kerala and Malabar and an attempt to find how much it paved the way for migration. And also the impact it created in the socio – cultural life of the people. A study like this would be able to throw light on the structure of Malabar society that led to international migration and also to the sweet as well as bitter fruits accrued from the Gulf migration.

**Literature Review**

During the present study we could come across many studies of varying nature - both micro level and macro level, official and non-official - on migration from Kerala. The availability of such a collection of literature is ample evidence to show that migration to Arab countries from the state has attracted attention of many scholars of Social Sciences. These works are helpful in understanding the subject, the area already covered, those which still lie untouched, and enabled us a great deal in working out the structure of our study. The works that already came out that deal with international migration from Kerala can be categorised into five: a) **State wise Government Surveys**: Department of Economics and Statistics have conducted a few surveys on migration from Kerala. Two significant ones are ‘Survey on Housing and Employment’ (1980) and ‘Report on Activity Status of Migrants and Returnees’ (2003). These are based on sample surveys in selected households in 14 districts of Kerala. The surveys are serious attempts on the part of the state government, to find out various aspects regarding migration from Kerala - number of migrants, occupations, remittances, districts of origin, countries of destination, general and technical education of migrants, etc. In short, these survey reports provide only basic statistical data on various aspects of migration. b) **Developmental Studies**: Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram has sponsored and financed a variety of studies on migration from the state. ‘Remittances of Indian
migrants to the Middle East: An Assessment with Special Reference to Migrants from Kerala State’ by I.S.Gulati, and Asoka Modi (1983), ‘Asian Migration to the Arab World: Migration from Kerala, (India)’ by P.R.Gopinathan Nair, (1986) ‘Impact of Migration on Kerala’s Economy and Society’ by K.C. Zachariah et al (1999), and ‘Kerala’s Gulf Connection: Emigration, remittances and their Macro- Economic Impact 1972-200’ by K.P.Kannan, and K.S.Hari, are important ones. These studies, mainly working papers and prepared by experts in migration and demographical studies, like Zachariah and Gopinathan Nair have analysed various aspects of migration, profiles of migrants, policy relevance, return migrants etc. But the entire analysis is from a developmental point of view and do not approach the problem from a historical angle. c) **Micro level Studies:** A few micro level studies have also been published. Notable among them are ‘Impact of Foreign Remittances: A Case Study of Chavakkad Village in Kerala’, by B.A. Prakash (1978), ‘Socio-Economic Characteristics of Emigrant House –holds: a Case study of two villages in Kerala’ by E.T. Mathew and P.R. Gopinathan Nair (1978) and ‘Emigration, Inward Remittances and Economic Development’, by C.Radhakrishnan and P.Ibrahim (1981). These works are important in the sense that they are the pioneer studies that deal with migration to West Asia. These micro level studies have examined the profiles of migrants, countries of emigration, characteristics of migrants, socio-economic background, volume of remittances, causes of migration etc based on surveys in selected villages. d) **Economic Studies:** ‘Incidence, Impact, and Implications of Migration to the Middle East from Kerala’ by P R Gopinathan Nair (1989), ‘Economic Consequences of Gulf Crisis: A Study of India with Special Reference to Kerala’ by T.M.Thomas Isaac (1993) and ‘Indian Migration to the Middle East : Trends, Patterns and Socio-Economic Impact’ by BA Prakash (1993 ) are a few studies the scope of which is limited to economic impact alone. e) **Studies on Impact Analysis:** A few studies have
dealt with impacts of migration other than economic ones. There are two studies in this category Leela Gulati’s ‘Coping with Male Migration’ and ‘In the absence of their Men: The Impact of Male Migration on Women’, (1992). Studies of Leela Gulati are undoubtedly serious attempts on the impact of migration on the women who were left behind. f) **Studies on Return Emigrants:** Another important area in which a good volume of literature available is on the problem of return emigrants, causes of return, present activity status of returnees etc. ‘Exodus of Gulf Migrants - Return migrants of Varkala town in Kerala’ by B.A.Prakash, (2000) and ‘Return Emigrants in Kerala: Rehabilitation Problem and Development Potential’, by Zachariah K C et al (2001) etc. come under this category.

All the above studies viewed the problem from a non-historical angle and in order to understand the formation of Kerala society and culture, this topic should be examined from a historical perspective. The present study is an attempt in that respect.

**Collection of Data and Methodology**

Migration phenomenon is unique in the sense that scholars of different disciplines like economists, geographers, sociologists, demographers, anthropologists, historians and even medical scientists have shown interest in its study, though from different angles. In the genesis of Gulf migration process, the role of different forces like socio-economic pressures, policies of formal agencies like Government, historical dynamisms, cultural proximity etc that had been working in the places of origin as well as destination are important. So, like economic factors, the socio-cultural variables like social fabric, geographical location, ethnic relations, previous experience etc are also adequate determinants of pattern of migration. So, in the study, in the analysis of migration process and its impact, not only the data but also the approach is equally important. The present study, though views the topic from
an historical angle, the contributions of other disciplines are not altogether ignored. Hence it relies on an inter-disciplinary approach employing the concepts of other branches.

Though the study concentrates on the socio-economic and cultural transformation of Malabar from a macro angle on the basis of primary as well as secondary documents, in diagnosing the background of initial migrations, characteristics of the pioneer migrants and the socio-cultural impact of Gulf boom on the society, it also suggests a micro level analysis in the form of personal interviews and participant observation. Discussions were held with a few earlier migrants to West Asia and also with the leaders of various expatriate organisations and some prominent personalities of the region who are actively working in the political, social and religious field. The discussions and interviews were conducted with the intention of getting information on two points. Firstly, the socio-economic background of the region at the time of the genesis of migration, and secondly, the role of petrodollar in the socio-cultural transformation of the region. Thus, the study is aimed to be an analysis of migration to West Asia from an historical - angle supplemented by personal interviews of selected earlier migrants and persons working in various socio-cultural spheres of the state. Thus the study becomes partly analytical and partly empirical.

The important primary sources for the study are as follows.
1) Emigration Acts & Rules:

For a proper understanding of the emigration from the country, various emigration rules passed in India were referred. The first Emigration Rule passed in India was the Act V of 1837. Since then, a series of Acts and Rules were passed. Emigration Act of 1922 and the Emigration Act of 1983 are the most prominent ones.

2) Passport Acts:

Two Passport Rules passed in India are The Passport Act, 1920 and The Passport Act of 1967.

3) Census Reports, Government of India:

4) Reports published by former Travancore, Cochin and Madras Governments.


5) Reports Published by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala:

   The reports mainly consulted under this head are


viii. Statistics for Planning for various years.


7) Reports of the Department of Education.

The Department of Education, Government of Kerala, has been publishing reports on various aspects of education in the state. The following reports have been used in the present study.

a) Kerala’s Selected Educational Statistics, 1972 –73


8) Environment Policy (Draft) of the Department of Environment

9) Reports of Beverages Corporation, Government of Kerala: Though State Beverages Corporation is not publishing any Reports about its production and sale, the statistics were collected from its Head office, Thiruvananthapuram.
10) News Paper Reports: Leading Malayalam and English news papers published from Kerala have brought about news on various aspects of migration from the state.

11) Reports of the Sample Survey Organisation.

The Primary Sources pertaining to the Arab Gulf countries were collected from the ‘Population Census’, ‘Educational Statistics’, ‘Financial Reports’, ‘Economic Surveys’ etc. published by various departments in the Arab Gulf countries.

12) Interviews:

Interviews and discussions were held with about fifty three migrants including the leaders of the expatriate organisations from different parts of Malabar. Wives of the migrants were also interviewed. Also, various aspects of the problems were discussed with leaders of expatriate organisations, heads of the educational institutions, politicians, journalists, religious leaders etc in the study area (List of persons interviewed is given at the end of the study).

13) Participant Observation: Since we belong to the study area and have been observing the society and of the migrant community for many years, it has helped us a lot in understanding the socio-cultural transformations taking place in the region since the Gulf boom.

The secondary sources for the study include:

1) Theses and Dissertations: Some unpublished PhD Theses and MPhil Dissertations

2) Working Papers: These include mainly the working papers published by Centre for Development Studies, ILO, ARTEP etc

3) Books: Books published both in Malayalam and English.
4) Souvenirs: A number souvenirs published by expatriate organisations in the Arab Gulf countries and other organisations and institutions in Kerala are referred.


**Period of Study**

It was since 1970s, that the region started to feel the presence of material affluence as the Gulf exodus assumed large magnitude as a result of the first oil price hike in 1973. But processes like migratory movements are moulded and effected by various economic, social, political, demographic and even cultural factors both in the area of origin and destination that may spread out years before the actual movement takes place. So the study needs to assess and analyse historical undercurrents that the region undergone, in the decades
before 1970. The state of Kerala formally came into being on 1 November 1956. So, the beginning of the decade of the formation of the state is taken as the starting year of the study.

In the closing decades of 20th century, the governments of Arab Gulf countries made several legislations and started to implement several immigration rules so as to control demographic imbalance and also to encourage more nationals to participate in the job markets. For example, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the UAE Government has prepared a document called *Labour 2000 Report* in this respect. The major policy measures implemented in the UAE in recent years which would adversely affect the emigrants from India are i) the Ministry of Labour has stopped accepting applications for visas for unskilled labourers belonging to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh with effect from July 18, 1991; ii) Strict action was initiated to send back illegal and unskilled expatriates already in UAE; iii) In order to curtail the number of unskilled labourers, the UAE Government has introduced several measures to make recruitment of unskilled labour costly; iv) with the object of Emiratisation, the UAE Government has already started measures to replace foreign labour with nationals in the public sector undertakings; v) the UAE nationals working in private sector companies are ensured the same social security benefits as are available to workers in the government sector companies; vi) the UAE government has decided not to renew the labour cards of private sector employees above the age of 60 with effect from May 30, 1999 except a few category of professionals; vii) the Ministry of Labour has introduced a new measure by which each employer seeking a new visa for work will have to deposit 3,000 dirhams in the ministry.35

but steps to reduce the number of unskilled workers. Since majority of the workers from Malabar region belonged to this category, the beginning of new century is a turning point in the history of West Asian migration. So the study covers a period of 50 years (1950 – 2000) that corroborate the beginning of the decade of the formation of the new state and the implementation of various immigration rules in the Arab Gulf countries that adversely affect the aspirations of the migrants from the Kerala. But since the study is a historical analysis of a current topic we could not confine within the above mentioned time limit and here and there some encroachment has become necessary.

**Scheme of Study**

The scheme of the study would be on the following lines. Chapter 1 is a brief account of the sources and methodology. A short but a precise report of the primary sources is given here. The sources of the secondary materials connected with the study are also touched in short. (The bibliography at the end of the study lists fully the primary and secondary sources used in the study). Significance of the study, purpose and methodology adopted are also mentioned. Chapter 2 gives a brief survey of the various approaches in migration study. Chapter 3 presents a comparative analysis of the political, economic and social conditions of the three different political units of Kerala – Travancore, Cochin and Malabar before the formation of Kerala, on linguistic basis. The 4th chapter discusses the same theme after the formation of Kerala. A short sketch of the economic and social conditions of the Muslim community is also attempted here. This is intended to unearth the general factors from which the migration originated in the region and also to enable one to analyse and comprehend its relation with the subsequent developments in the society. In a process like international migration the need for looking into the past to interpret the present cannot be overestimated. In doing so it attempts to show the relative backwardness and peculiar socio – cultural
fabric of Malabar and its role in the waves of international migration. In any migration process, the socio-economic conditions of the places of destinations are equally important. So a brief sketch of six Arab Gulf countries and their socio-economic background at the time of the genesis of migration is given in chapter 5. An analysis of Gulf Arab regions in terms of their economic growth and labour force are examined. Chapter 6 traces the various international migrations occurred from India from indentured migration to the current Arab Gulf Migration and also a short survey of various emigration rules passed in the country are traced with. This chapter is included to have a background for understanding the migration streams from Malabar. Chapter 7 examines the role of Malabar in the various international migrations that the country witnessed. Chapter 8 and 9 address the socio-cultural impact of Gulf Boom on the region. By focusing both on the positive and negative impacts, the study tries to assess the length and breadth of the socio-cultural transformation in the region and the role of petro-dollar in this transition. A brief highlights of the findings is given as chapter 10.

Migration of the Keralites to the Arabian Gulf is a recent phenomenon that started in 1970s and which still continues. Both the causes and results of this mass human flow are intrinsically interlaced with the contemporary political, economic and social conditions of the Kerala society. Since the major sources for the study being government reports and statistics we had to face some handicaps. Certain government records provide data state wise only and as the present study is confined to the Malabar area, we could not get separate figures for northern districts. At this juncture, dependence is made on the studies conducted in various Gulf pockets by different individuals and institutions.

The main focus of the study being the socio-cultural impact of the Gulf migration the chapter on impact analysis became a lengthy one. So the
chapter has to be split into two. It was first thought of dividing the chapter under the title positive impact and negative impact. But such a division became a laborious one as most of the aspects involve both positive and negative sides. So the partition is not on the basis of any concrete concept but just to reduce the size of the chapter.

The pattern of documentation adopted in this work is mainly as laid in the Style Guide published by the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. It is hoped that there would be no difficulty in following the method adopted here. A change in convention however is the omission of the traditional Latin abbreviation ‘op.cit’ to indicate that the work has already been cited. Instead, when a reference is made to a work already cited in the same chapter in an earlier foot note, the procedure is as follows.


The abbreviation ‘n.1’ in footnote (7) means that the work is one cited earlier in footnote (1).