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Thriving Amid Transitions:
Resilience in Kerala's
Migrant Communities

KERALA MIGRATION SURVEY 2023 REPORT

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Executive Summary

Since the first historic Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) conducted in 1998 by K C Zachariah and S Irudaya Rajan, there has been an increasing trend of Keralites moving abroad, from 1.4 million in 1998 to 1.8 million in 2003 and 2.2 million in 2008, reaching its peak in 2013 with 2.4 million emigrants. However, in 2018, Kerala observed a steady decline in labour migration with the number of emigrants estimated at 2.1 million. This is understood to have happened due to the changing demographics in Kerala, stringent nationalization policies in the Gulf after the global economic crisis, economic downturns, company closures, shifts in the labour market demands and competition from countries such as those in Africa, which offer emigrants willing to work for lower wages.

After the last round of KMS in 2018, Kerala experienced unprecedented floods causing severe destruction. This was followed by the global lockdown, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. This led to large-scale return migration, job losses, compulsory repatriations, expired visas, increasing fear of deportations, economic disruptions, and wage theft. In his budget speech on 11 March 2022, the Finance Minister of Kerala told the assembly that 1.4 million non-resident Keralites, comprising two-thirds of 2.1 emigrants estimated by the KMS 2018, returned to the state in the aftermath of the pandemic. The Department of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA), the Government of Kerala, initiated the ninth round of KMS in 2023 in response to the recommendations of the 3rd Loka Kerala Sabha of 2022 to examine the recent trends in migration, return migration, and remittances. The KMS 2023 was conducted by the Gulati Institute of Finance Taxation (GIFT) with technical support from the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD).

About KMS 2023

The Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) commenced in 1998 with an initial sample size of 10,000 households which was later expanded to 15,000 households in 2018. The sample size of the 2023 iteration of KMS saw a further increase, reaching 20,000 households (suggested by K C Zachariah, Founder President of IIMAD) across 14 districts and 77 Taluks of Kerala, selected through a stratified multistage random sampling method. In this approach, rural and urban areas within each of the 14 districts were considered distinct strata, resulting in 28 strata.

Consequently, 500 localities were selected statewide, and 40 households were identified within each of these localities using a systematic random sampling method at the time of the survey. This methodology ensured a truly representative sample, encompassing all taluks across the 14 districts. Covering 20,000 households, the KMS 2023 is one of the largest socio-economic surveys conducted in Kerala since the state's formation in 1956. To provide a comparison, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) was conducted among 12,330 households in Kerala. Additionally, the KMS 2023 found that about 28 per cent of households surveyed were female-headed, which is 2.7 per cent more than the 2011 census figure of 25.3 per cent. Notably, the 9th round of KMS marked the transition from traditional pen and paper surveys to a digital format, utilizing the Kobo Toolbox for data collection with the help of more than 300 trained investigators throughout Kerala.

Emigration from Kerala

According to the KMS 2023, the number of emigrants from Kerala is estimated to be 2.2 million, closely aligning with the 2.1 million recorded in the KMS 2018. This stability in international migration over the last five years is interesting, given the overall declining trend observed over the past decade in the previous rounds of KMS. Although there is a slight increase of 32,388 emigrants in 2023, 9 out of the 14 districts in Kerala observed a considerable decline in the number of emigrants when compared to 2018, indicating a saturation of international migration. Despite

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expectations of a further decline in this round of KMS, a significant rise in student emigration has substantially contributed to maintaining the emigration levels in 2023. From 129,763 student emigrants in 2018, the number has doubled to about 250,000 in 2023. This notable increase in student emigration underscores a significant shift in the demographics of emigrants from Kerala, wherein there has been an increase in the number of emigrants leaving at a very young age, as early as 17 years. The KMS 2023 has revealed that students constitute 11.3 per cent of total emigrants from Kerala, indicating that a growing number of younger individuals are choosing to emigrate, particularly for educational opportunities abroad.

In 2023, there has been a slight decrease in the number of emigrants per 100 households when compared to the previous years. However, despite this decrease, nearly half of the households surveyed have experienced migration in some form or the other, either through emigration or return emigration. Two out of five households in Kerala were found to have non-resident Keralites, indicating the significant presence of migration experiences within the economy and society. Of the 20,000 households surveyed, 16.2 per cent reported having at least one emigrant, which is a slight decrease from the 17.3 per cent reported in 2018. However, in 2023, the total number of Non-Resident Keralites, including both emigrants and return emigrants, is estimated to be 4 million, marking an increase from the figure of 3.41 million recorded in 2018. During the KMS 2023 data collection, many homes were found to be locked, because entire families had migrated. About 4.2 lakh (0.4 million) cases of family migration have been identified as part of KMS 2023. The global Malayali diaspora is estimated to be 5 million, whereas the Malayali diaspora outside Kerala, within India, is estimated at 3 million.

Tirur taluk in Malappuram district continues to lead in the number of emigrants. It has maintained its lead from the previous years, with slightly more than 100,000 emigrants in 2023. On the other hand, Devikulam taluk in Idukki district has recorded the lowest number of emigrants. The northern region of Kerala remains a focal point for migration, encompassing the majority of emigrants. Malappuram was the origin of nearly 377,647 emigrants in 2023. With regards to the religious distribution of the emigrants from Kerala, Muslims lead at 41.9 per cent, followed by Hindus at 35.2 per cent and Christians at 22.3 per cent. The destination countries have also seen changes over the years, with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries remaining the strongest corridor. There had been a shift from Saudi Arabia as the most preferred destination, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) according to the data from the last few rounds of KMS. UAE retains the same position in 2023 as well. However, there has been a decline in the number of emigrants choosing GCC countries from 89.2 per cent in 2018 to 80.5 per cent in 2023. Simultaneously there has been a rise in the number of emigrants preferring non-GCC destination countries, from 10.8 per cent in 2018 to 19.5 per cent in 2023. The rising student migration and their preference for non-GCC countries could be responsible for this shift.

The proportion of female emigrants has increased from 15.8 per cent in 2018 to 19.1 per cent in 2023. Female migration has further seen a shift from GCC countries to Europe and other Western nations as destination countries, accounting for 40.5 per cent. However, for males, this figure stands at 14.6 per cent. In terms of education, 71.5 per cent of female migrants were found to have completed degree-level education as opposed to only 34.7 per cent of male emigrants. Male migrants continue to dominate emigration from Kerala, with the gap between male and female migrants being narrowest in Kottayam and widest in Malappuram.

Return migrants

The number of emigrants who have returned home is estimated to be 1.8 million, a significant increase from 1.2 million in 2018. This increase over the last few years had been expected due to the global health crisis-induced economic disruptions, stricter immigration policies, and a significant reduction in available job opportunities. Many migrants found themselves in an

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untenable position, unable to find new employment while also facing mounting pressures. A substantial number of them were thus compelled to return to their home countries, driven by the loss of jobs, compulsory resignations, and other pandemic-related challenges. The major reason for return was found to be job losses/layoffs, as reported by 18.4 per cent of return migrants. Only 4.4 per cent of the returnees had come back after accomplishing their goals for migration. UAE, the most preferred destination for emigrants, is also the country from which Kerala has the highest returnees, amounting to 36 per cent of the total returnees.

Remittances

According to KMS 2023, the total remittances to Kerala saw a significant surge after the pandemic. Total remittances reached Rs 216,893 crores in 2023 from Rs 85,092 crores in 2018, marking a 154.9 per cent increase. The total remittances of Rs 216,893 crores imply a remittance of Rs 61,118 per capita for a population of 3,549 crores. A similar trend of increased remittances to households is also captured by KMS 2023, wherein the remittances sent by the emigrants to Kerala households amounted to Rs 37,058 crores, reflecting a 20.6 per cent increase from the 2018 figures. A considerable increase is also seen in the average remittance per emigrant household, rising to Rs 2,23,729 in 2023 compared to Rs 96,185 in 2018. While remittances to Kerala have been increasing over the years, the number of households receiving these remittances has declined from 16 per cent of households in 2018, to 12 per cent in 2023. Kerala holds a steady 21 per cent share of India's NRI deposits, a figure that has remained consistent since 2019. Needless to say, these inward remittances play a significant part in strengthening the economy of the state. Remittances constituted 1.7 times the revenue receipt of the state. The share of remittances, as a per cent of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), has seen an increase to 23.2 per cent in 2023 from 13.5 per cent in 2018. For the first time, we have estimated an outward remittance of Rs 43,378 crores which is about 20 per cent of the inward remittance, using the KMS 2023 data.

Interestingly, Kollam district surpassed Malappuram this year in terms of household remittances. Kollam received 17.8 per cent of the remittances, compared to Malappuram's 16.2 per cent of the total household remittances. Similar to the previous years, Muslim households continued to receive the highest share of remittances, accounting for 40.1 per cent, followed by Hindu households at 39.1 per cent, and Christian households at 20.8 per cent. About 73.3 per cent of the emigrant households receiving remittances were observed to have received remittances every month. With regards to the use of remittances, it is found that 15.8 per cent of remittances were allocated for renovating houses or shops. While 14.0 per cent of remittances were used to pay off bank loans and 10.0 per cent was used for education purposes.

Internal migration

KMS 2023 estimates a total of 0.5 million out-migrants from Kerala. Like previous years**,** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra remain the top three states for out-migration, return-out-migration, and student migration. Palakkad records the highest number of out-migrants estimated at 55,601, followed by Ernakulam at 53,756 and Kollam with 48,330 migrants. Notably, there is a significant decline in unemployment for out-migrants; the unemployment rate declined from 15.1 per cent before migration to 2.4 per cent after migration. The majority of both out migrants and return out migrants are male, accounting for 64.4 per cent and 75.2 per cent respectively. However, student out-migration is more prevalent among females at 57.8 per cent, whereas the rate of female student return out-migration is lower at 35.8 per cent. This suggests a pattern wherein female students prefer to migrate and remain in the destination states.

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Policy prescriptions

The migration trends highlighted by KMS 2023 have significant implications for Kerala's demographic composition and economy, requiring myriad policy interventions. One notable trend is the dramatic increase in student migration, with the number of student emigrants nearly doubling in the past five years. There is an urgent need to enhance the state's educational infrastructure and provide resources that ensure safe migration pathways for future student emigrants. Ensuring the regular monitoring and regulation of language training centres and recruitment agencies is crucial for reducing instances of deceit and fraud by migration agents. It is also important to develop new policies that will encourage Malayalee international students to return home after acquiring valuable skills abroad, fostering a wave of brain gain.

Given that 76.9 per cent of Kerala's emigrants are labour emigrants, it is essential to improve and strengthen their skills to help them secure better employment opportunities and pay abroad. Programs like the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), focusing on imparting job-ready skills, should be expanded to include skill development for emigrants. This approach could increase the likelihood of emigrants choosing non-GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries as their destinations. The prioritization of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with new and emerging destination countries will also facilitate smoother migration governance. Additionally, the growing number of return migrants necessitates comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration measures. The dynamic nature of migration flows can only be understood by studying them at regular and frequent intervals. A smaller version of the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS), with a sample size of approximately 5,000 households, could be conducted annually to accurately track key indicators.

KMS 2023 estimates a Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) of about 13.3 million migrants. Despite migrants constituting almost one-third of Kerala's population (38 per cent), we have not been fully successful in unleashing their true potential. With a diaspora of 5 million Malayalees, the time is ripe to think about a Migration Development bank, following the example set by the Asian Development Bank. Enhancing migration infrastructure while ensuring access to redressal mechanisms and supporting diaspora organizations, will greatly maximize the potential of Kerala's migrants and their role in Kerala's development.

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SECTION -1

INTRODUCTION

The Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) is in its ninth round of a long-standing series of migration monitoring studies running globally. Since 1998, K.C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan have pioneered a unique approach to study all aspects of migration from Kerala. Originally undertaken by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in Thiruvananthapuram, the 2023 edition of KMS was conducted by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), with funding from the Department of Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA), Government of Kerala as well as technical support from the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD).

Following the last round of the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) in 2018, Kerala faced substantial challenges, including two major floods in 2018 and 2019 and three waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. These events had significant impacts on the state's demographic and migration patterns.

The KMS 2023 project has been implemented in three sequential phases, each contributing to its overall goals and objectives. This report provides a detailed analysis of the Phase 2 survey results, shedding light on the key indicators gathered during this stage.

Objectives of the KMS 2023

The study presents estimates of international migrants, out migrants and remittances as well as the socio-economic and health status of the sample households. It also details the characteristics of current migrants and return migrants. By comparing these with data gathered from the earlier rounds of KMS spanning three decades, the study offers insights into the impact of migration on development in Kerala.

Why is the sample size fixed to 20000?

The first KMS in 1998 included 10,000 sample households, which was considered a large enough sample to estimate the total number of migrants. By 2008, the sample size increased to 15,000 households to ensure a more comprehensive distribution across the 14 districts and 77 taluks of Kerala. In the 2023 KMS, the sample size was further increased to 20000 households (Table 1.1), following the advice given by K C Zachariah (Founder President, IIMAD) at the time of developing the proposal in 2022. This increase was necessary to capture the evolving patterns of migration, which had become more complex over the years. Initially, migrants often moved for menial jobs and left their families behind, making it easier to capture migration data by interviewing the remaining family members. Over time, however, migration patterns shifted due to higher education levels, resulting in many migrants obtaining skilled jobs and moving with their families. In such instances, there were fewer family members left behind, sometimes only elderly individuals. Anticipating this change, the sample size was increased to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the migration data. It has to be noted that the team had to visit an additional 5000 households due to locked houses (because all members of the families had moved outside India) and rejection by household members who did not wish to be part of the survey. Over the last 25 years, KMS has covered more than 100,000 households, resulting in the longest and most continuous data that exists for any state in India since independence.

Table 1.1: Sample Size by Districts of Kerala, KMS, 2023

Districts	No. of Households 2011			Number of Sample Households			Number of Sample Localities		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Thiruvananthapuram	837877	390963	446914	2080	960	1120	52	24	28
Kollam	669375	376679	292696	1640	920	720	41	23	18
Pathanamthitta	322684	287615	35069	1040	720	320	26	18	8
Alappuzha	535958	248616	287342	1360	640	720	34	16	18
Kottayam	487296	346899	140397	1200	840	360	30	21	9
Idukki	279812	267208	12604	680	640	40	17	16	1
Ernakulam	814011	259915	554096	2000	640	1360	50	16	34
Thrissur	759210	250877	508333	1960	640	1320	49	16	33
Palakkad	637220	482285	154935	1600	1200	400	40	30	10
Malappuram	793999	448037	345962	2120	1160	960	53	29	24
Kozhikode	697710	235703	462007	1800	600	1200	45	15	30
Wayanad	190894	183375	7519	440	400	40	11	10	1
Kannur	554298	202229	352069	1400	520	880	35	13	22
Kasaragod	273410	169240	104170	680	440	240	17	11	6
Kerala	7853754	4149641	3704113	20000	10320	9680	500	258	242

Sample Selection

The primary sample unit was a household, with 20,000 households selected using a stratified multistage random sampling method. The districts in Kerala were categorized into two main strata: rural and urban. This resulted in a total of 28 strata, with 14 rural strata and 14 urban strata. This stratification ensured that both rural and urban areas were adequately represented in the sample. Within each stratum, the selection of localities (Grama Panchayats or Municipal Wards) was based on the number of households in that particular stratum. Proportional sampling was employed using the 2011 census data, in order to determine the number of localities to be selected from each stratum. This approach ensured that the sample represented the population distribution across districts and strata.

The localities were chosen proportionally to reflect the household distribution. The number of localities selected from each stratum was determined based on the size of the stratum relative

to the total households. This ensured that areas with larger numbers of households had higher representation in the sample.

Within each selected locality, 40 households were chosen using systematic random sampling. This involved creating a sampling frame of households in the selected locality and then systematically selecting every "kth" household from the list. The value of "k" was calculated based on the total number of households in the locality and the desired sample size. Systematic random sampling ensured that each household in the locality had an equal chance of being selected.

The total sample size for the survey was specified as 20,000 households. To achieve this, a total of 500 localities were selected from all the 28 strata. This distribution ensured an adequate representation of households from different areas in Kerala.

The survey was carried out by nearly 300 trained field investigators throughout Kerala using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technology with the Kobo Toolbox software. This was the first time that the KMS was conducted without the use of pen and paper.

By implementing this stratified multistage random sampling methodology, the Kerala Migration Surveys aimed to gather data that accurately reflected the characteristics and experiences of households in both rural and urban areas of each district in Kerala. The resulting dataset could then be used for policy analysis and research purposes.

Kerala Migration Panel Survey 2023

The phase 1 panel survey of 2023 covered 10000 households with 11 types of panel sets. The panel study initiated in 2003 originally included 5000 households, selected from a baseline established in 1998. This longitudinal study aims to track and analyze various socio-economic indicators over time. Since its inception, the panel study has been conducted at five-year intervals, revisiting a significant proportion of the original households to ensure continuity and robustness in the data collected.

As of 2023, the study encompasses 11 distinct panels, each representing a five-year snapshot of the ongoing research (Table 1.2). This results in a coverage duration ranging from 25 years for the original households surveyed in 1998 to 5 years for the most recent additions. Through these repeated measures, the study provides invaluable insights into long-term trends and patterns within the population. This enables researchers to observe changes and developments over a substantial period. This longitudinal approach offers a rich dataset that can be used to understand complex dynamics and causal relationships in the socio-economic landscape.

Table 1.2: Samples Selected for the Panel, Phase 1, 2023

Panel No	Years	Number of Households
1	1998-2003-2008-2013-2018-2023	405
2	2003-2008-2013-2018-2023	1010
3	1998-2008-2013-2018-2023	176
4	2008-2013-2018-2023	1278
5	2003-2013-2018-2023	634
6	1998-2013-2018-2023	297
7	1998-2018-2023	283
8	2003-2018-2023	449
9	2008-2018-2023	503
10	2013-2018-2023	1247
11	2018 - 2023	3900
	Total	10,182

Sampling and non-sampling Errors

As in previous surveys, in KMS 2023, sampling errors were controlled by considering the proportion of the number of households in Kerala. The selection of the number of sample households and sample localities adhered to this proportionality condition to ensure representativeness. However, non-sampling errors, which can occur during both the survey period and the tabulation period, were also addressed.

Pre-Survey Measures

Before the survey began, district coordinators collected and verified household details for the selected wards in the selected localities. This verification process aimed to minimize coverage errors. Coverage errors arise due to the use of outdated lists prepared by local authorities. This result in the non-inclusion of some newly built households in the sampling frame. Further, some households which had already migrated could also remain in the sampling frame.

Post-Survey Checks

To further mitigate errors, a post-survey check was conducted immediately after the completion of data collection in each locality. This check aimed to identify and correct any enumeration errors. Enumeration errors occur if the data collectors make mistakes in recording household details or if the households are incorrectly included or excluded.

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Response Errors

Another significant type of error that was addressed is the response error. Response errors occur when respondents do not provide accurate information, either intentionally or unintentionally. Some respondents might withhold details or provide incorrect information due to fear or privacy concerns. To minimize these errors, survey administrators took steps to ensure that the respondents felt comfortable and understood the importance of providing accurate information. This involved training enumerators to build rapport with respondents and assure them of the confidentiality and purpose of the survey.

The survey faced several challenges that necessitated the replacement of households. These challenges included households being locked, refusal to participate in the survey, houses being devastated by floods, and instances where all members had migrated, leaving no one to respond.

By implementing these measures, KMS 2023 aimed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected. Controlling sampling errors through proportional selection and addressing non-sampling errors through pre-survey verifications, post-survey checks, and careful management of response errors were crucial steps in this process. These efforts contributed to the overall goal of producing a dataset that accurately reflects the characteristics and experiences of households in Kerala.

Raising Factor as Sampling Weight

In large-scale household surveys, the raising factor, used as sampling weights, adjusts sample data to match the population it represents, ensuring accurate estimation of population parameters (Table 1.3). Since the probability of selecting a household in every locality is uniformly 1/40, the raising factor for all localities is identical. Therefore, the focus is on obtaining weights at the district level where these raising factors may vary between districts. This ensures that the sample weights are accurate for district-level analysis.

The raising factors are calculated based on the number of households in a district in 2023, which was estimated from Census 2001 and 2011 data, divided by the number of households from the district in the sample. These district-level raising factors are vital for our estimations. Similarly, raising factors for the population can also be calculated.

The raising factor of Households $= \dfrac{\text{Total number of HH 2023 (Projected)} \textit{for Kerala}}{\text{Number of sample HH}}$

Where,

HH 2023 (Projected): It represents the projected number of households in each district for the year 2023.

Sample HH: It is the number of households sampled in each district.

The raising factor of population $= \dfrac{\text{Total number of Population 2023 (Projected)} \textit{for Kerala}}{\text{Total sample population}}$

Where,

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Population 2023 (Projected): This column provides the projected population for each district in 2023.

Sample Population: It represents the sampled population in each district.

The raising factors vary from district to district. Pathanamthitta district has the lowest population raising factor, while Palakkad has the highest. Similarly, the household raising factor is lowest for Pathanamthitta and highest for Malappuram. To compare the sample with the census totals, we need to estimate the sample at the state level, which is obtained as the weighted sum of the district totals.

Table 1.3: Population, Households and Raising Factor, 2023

Districts	Population				Households			
	Census 2011	2023 (Esti.)	Sample	Raising Factor	Census 2011	2023 (Esti.)	Sample	Raising Factor
Thiruvananthapuram	3307284	3354534	6920	484.759	842708	951601	2080	457.501
Kollam	2629703	2680670	5320	503.885	673157	786180	1640	479.378
Pathanamthitta	1195537	1145915	3031	378.065	321437	363314	1040	349.340
Alappuzha	2121943	2134366	4423	482.561	537992	614443	1360	451.796
Kottayam	1979384	1986633	4202	472.783	489563	568405	1200	473.671
Idukki	1107453	1078971	2498	431.934	279337	301395	680	442.577
Ernakulam	3279860	3465443	7079	489.539	868934	1004390	2000	502.195
Thrissur	3110327	3292679	7073	465.528	679734	954460	1960	486.969
Palakkad	2810892	3052082	5637	541.437	630258	811392	1600	507.120
Malappuram	4110956	5006415	9340	536.019	790811	1115915	2120	526.375
Kozhikode	3089543	3338518	6972	478.846	704285	920889	1800	511.605
Wayanad	816558	853368.8	1726	494.420	189500	227266	440	517.691
Kannur	2525637	2660274	5174	514.162	551200	723012	1400	516.437
Kasaragod	1302600	1437742	2702	532.103	289969	351778	680	517.321
Total	33387677	35487611	72097		7848885	9694440	20000	

For example, in the sample (Table 1.4), the total number of Hindus in Kerala is first estimated by calculating the number of Hindus in each district. The total for Kerala is then obtained as a weighted sum of the district totals, with the weights being the reciprocal of the sampling fraction. In the case of Thiruvananthapuram District, this reciprocal is 484.759.

Table 1.4: Population of Kerala by Religion and Districts, 2023

District	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Total	Raising Factor	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	4377	1185	1358	6920	484.759	2121791	574440	658303	3354534
Kollam	3577	762	981	5320	503.885	1802398	383961	494312	2680670
Pathanamthitta	1713	1180	138	3031	378.065	647626	446117	52173	1145915
Alappuzha	3137	782	504	4423	482.561	1513793	377362	243211	2134366
Kottayam	1904	1715	583	4202	472.783	900178	810822	275632	1986633
Idukki	1286	1017	195	2498	431.934	555467	439277	84227	1078971
Ernakulam	3419	2258	1402	7079	489.539	1673732	1105378	686333	3465443
Thrissur	3907	1927	1239	7073	465.528	1818817	897072	576789	3292679
Palakkad	3772	262	1603	5637	541.437	2042302	141857	867924	3052082
Malappuram	2747	43	6550	9340	536.019	1472444	23049	3510923	5006415
Kozhikode	3811	212	2949	6972	478.846	1824884	101515	1412118	3338518
Wayanad	842	450	434	1726	494.420	416302	222489	214578	853369
Kannur	3403	381	1390	5174	514.162	1749693	195896	714685	2660274
Kasargod	1485	268	949	2702	532.103	790173	142604	504966	1437742
Total	39380	12442	20275	72097		19329599	5861838	10296174	35487611

Number of Households and Population

The number of households and population was estimated using the average growth rates of two decades' household and population figures from 1991-2001 and 2001-2011, due to the absence of the Census in 2021. In 2011, the total number of households in Kerala was 7.85 million. During the period from 2011 to 2023, while the population increased by 6.3 percent, the number of households increased by 23.5 percent. This trend is likely to continue in the future, leading to a potential increase in the demand for housing in urban areas and other essential services.

Schedule Type Used for the Survey

The survey comprises three phases: Phase 1 involved 10,000 panel households, Phase 2 encompassed 20,000 households, and Phase 3 incorporated specialized surveys targeting migration to gather comprehensive data on various facets of migration and its repercussions. The modules included in the survey are as follows:

Phase 1 Panel Survey

The panel survey included a module at both the household and individual levels, encompassing blocks with both current and return migrants.

Phase 2 Survey

This report is based on the phase 2 survey with 20000 households. The main module at the household and individual levels is used for phase 2. This module has collected information on migration patterns, demographic details of household members, socio-economic characteristics, reasons for migration, and other relevant factors at both the household and individual levels.

Phase 3 Surveys – Special Studies

The third phase included the special modules to capture the impact of migration on various sectors.

1. **Return Migrant and Recruitment Cost Module**: This module focused on individuals who returned to their place of origin after migrating. It gathers data on their experiences, reasons for returning, reintegration challenges, and economic aspects such as the costs involved in migration.

2. **Women Left Behind**: This module aimed to capture information about the women who have been left behind by migrant family members. It examined the socio-economic conditions, well-being, access to resources, and coping mechanisms of these women in the absence of male family members.

3. **Children Left Behind**: This module focused on children left behind by migrating parents. It assessed their well-being, education, emotional support and any challenges they may face due to parental migration.

4. **Migration and Elderly**: This module examined the conditions of elderly individuals left behind when younger family members migrated. It looked into their health, social support, access to services, and overall well-being in the absence of their family members.

5. **Floods and Migration**: This module investigated the impact of floods on migration patterns, decision-making processes as well as the experiences of those individuals and households affected by the floods.

6. **Student Migration**: This module focused on the migration of students for educational purposes. It gathered data on the students' motivations, educational outcomes, challenges as well as the support systems available to them.

By incorporating these modules, the survey provides a comprehensive understanding of the various dimensions of migration and its effects on different segments of the population (Table 1.5). This allows for targeted policies and interventions to address the needs and challenges faced by migrants and their families.

Table 1.5: Sample Size selected for special studies, Phase 3, 2023

No	Modules	Sample Individuals
1.	Return Migrants	2000
2.	Women Left Behind	3000
3.	Children Left Behind	2000
4.	Migration and Elderly	10318
5.	Flood and Migration	1000
6.	Student Migration	750
7	Recruitment Cost Module	2000
8	Migrants and Food Insecurity	2000
9	Migrants and Health	2500

SECTION - 2

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Demographic Background

The ultimate sample unit in KMS 2023 was a household, with data collected from all household members summarized as the sample population. Current emigrants and out migrants were excluded from the sample. The sample population consisted of 72,097 persons 20000 households. The proportion of males in the total sample population was 48 percent, while the corresponding female population was 52 percent, reflecting similar percentages as observed in the Census 2011. Thus, the KMS sample did not demonstrate any major bias with respect to the sex composition of the population.

Table 2.1 presents the distribution of the sample population across the districts of Kerala alongside the population estimates, projected using the ratio method. Table 2.1 also contains the sex ratio of all districts of Kerala. Malappuram has the highest estimated population in Kerala at 5 million, followed by Ernakulam at 3.4 million and Thiruvananthapuram at 3.3 million. Wayanad is the least populated district, with 0.8 million people. This closely aligns with the data from Census 2011 that puts Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam as the top three, and Wayanad as the least populated district of Kerala. Malappuram is the district of residence for one out of every seven persons in the state.

Table 2.1: Estimated Population by Sex, 2023

District	Sample			Estimated			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio
Thiruvananthapuram	3272	3648	6920	1586132	1768402	3354534	1115
Kollam	2524	2796	5320	1271807	1408863	2680670	1108
Pathanamthitta	1450	1581	3031	548194	597721	1145915	1090
Alappuzha	2089	2334	4423	1008069	1126297	2134366	1117
Kottayam	2075	2127	4202	981024	1005609	1986633	1025
Idukki	1261	1237	2498	544669	534302	1078971	981
Ernakulam	3424	3655	7079	1676180	1789263	3465443	1067
Thrissur	3350	3723	7073	1559518	1733160	3292679	1111
Palakkad	2676	2961	5637	1448886	1603196	3052082	1107
Malappuram	4418	4922	9340	2368131	2638284	5006415	1114
Kozhikode	3238	3734	6972	1550505	1788013	3338518	1153
Wayanad	837	889	1726	413829	439539	853369	1062
Kannur	2389	2785	5174	1228333	1431941	2660274	1166
Kasargod	1287	1415	2702	684816	752926	1437742	1099
Total	34290	37807	72097	16870094	18617516	35487611	1104

Kannur has the highest sex ratio of 1166, closely followed by Kozhikode at 1153 and Alappuzha at 1117 females per 1000 males. Idukki has the lowest sex ratio at 981 females per 1000 males. Table 2.2 compares the sex ratio of Kerala obtained from KMS 2023 with the sex ratio from KMS 2018 and Census 2011. KMS 2023 and 2018 return a similar sex ratio of 1104

(slightly higher than the Census 2011 figure of 1084), maintaining the higher representation of females compared to males.

Table 2.2: Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males), 2023

Source	Sex Ratio
KMS 2023	1104
KMS 2018	1104
Census 2011	1084

Table 2.3 compares the broad age structure of the estimated population from KMS 2023 with the data from Census 2011 and the 2021 population projections. KMS 2023 suggests a noticeable reduction of the 0-14 age group from 24.6 per cent in 2011 to 16.0 per cent, for both males and females as a proportion of the total population. Meanwhile, the proportion of 60+ in the population shows a sharp increase to 21.8 per cent in 2023 from 12.5 per cent in the 2011 census. The share of the 15-59 age groups has remained unchanged.

Table 2.3: Broad Age Structure of Population, 2023

Sex	0-14	15-59	60+	Total
Male	17.0	61.3	21.7	100.0
Female	15.0	63.1	21.9	100.0
Total	16.0	62.2	21.8	100.0
2021				
Male	22.8	62.1	15.1	100.0
Female	20.2	62.4	17.4	100.0
Total	21.4	62.3	16.3	100.0
2011				
Male	26.1	62.2	11.7	100.0
Female	23.2	63.6	13.2	100.0
Total	24.6	62.9	12.5	100.0

The aging of the Kerala population is visible with an increase in the older population and a decrease in the younger age group. The median age of the estimated population is 39 years with a standard deviation of ± 21.34. This is similar to China's median age in 2023 at 39.8 percent. The median age of Kerala in 2011 was 31 years (Figure 2.1).

Table 2.4 shows an overall positive population growth rate (exponential) of 0.504 for Kerala. The total population has increased from 33.4 million in 2011 to 35.5 million in 2023. Districts like Malappuram, Palakkad, and Kasargod have shown significant growth rates above 0.5, indicating a notable increase in population. Only the districts of Pathanamthitta and Idukki have experienced a negative growth rate of 0.366 and 0.229 respectively.

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Figure 2.1: Age-Sex Pyramid of the Sample Population, Kerala, 2023
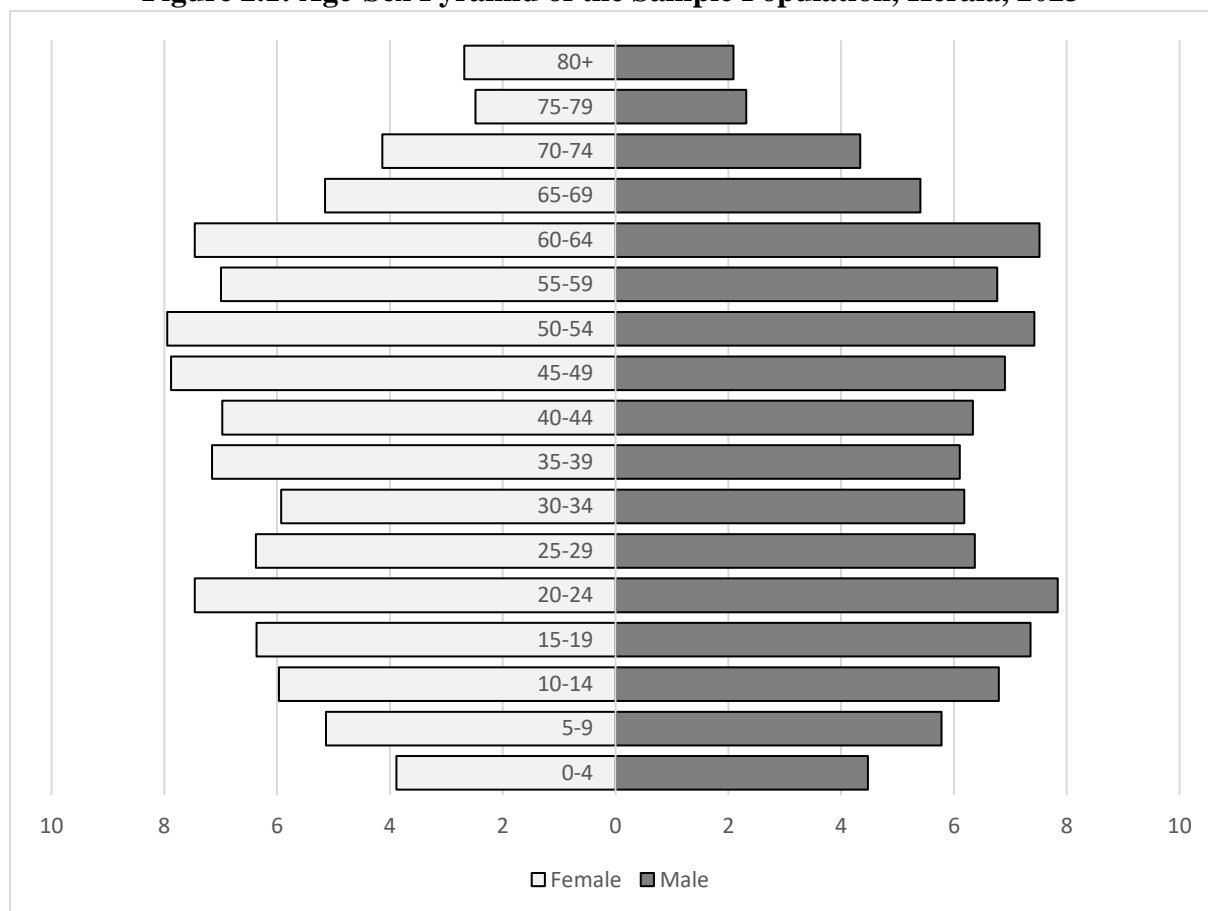
Table 2.4: Population and Growth Rates by Districts, 2023

Districts	Census 2011	KMS 2023	Growth Rate
Thiruvananthapuram	3301427	3354534	0.133
Kollam	2635375	2680670	0.142
Pathanamthitta	1197412	1145915	-0.366
Alappuzha	2127789	2134366	0.026
Kottayam	1974551	1986633	0.051
Idukki	1108974	1078971	-0.229
Ernakulam	3282388	3465443	0.452
Thrissur	3121200	3292679	0.446
Palakkad	2809934	3052082	0.689
Malappuram	4112920	5006415	1.638
Kozhikode	3086293	3338518	0.655
Wayanad	817420	853368.8	0.359
Kannur	2523003	2660274	0.441
Kasargod	1307375	1437742	0.792
Total	33406061	35487611	0.504

The survey reveals a negative growth rate for the age groups under 20 years and those aged 25-44 years (Table 2.5). This indicates a decline in the number of individuals within these age brackets as compared to previous periods. The age-specific growth rate is highest for the 70-

74 age group, and lowest for the 0-4 age group. For the age group under 20 years, the negative growth rate may be attributed to declining birth rates and changing family structures, observed as impacts of demographic transition. The negative growth rate in the 25-44 years age group could be influenced by increased migration for educational and employment opportunities, both within and outside the country. As young adults in this age group seek better prospects abroad or in other regions, the local population in this bracket diminishes. Kerala's reception of a large number of migrants from other states in the working age groups helps the state maintain the growth rates among adults. This however requires further investigation.

Table 2.5: Age Specific Growth Rate of Kerala, 2001-2023

Age	2001	2011	2023	Gr (2011-2001)	Gr (2023-2011)
0-4	2765164	2455632	1491238	-0.012	-0.042
5-9	2544181	2557760	1950106	0.001	-0.023
10-14	2987200	2825695	2272513	-0.006	-0.018
15-19	2984506	2613256	2438155	-0.013	-0.006
20-24	2983990	2668566	2725488	-0.011	0.002
25-29	2786195	2606779	2270673	-0.007	-0.012
30-34	2516463	2458034	2160241	-0.002	-0.011
35-39	2466354	2582332	2372480	0.005	-0.007
40-44	1951284	2414987	2370399	0.021	-0.002
45-49	1926144	2350955	2625041	0.020	0.009
50-54	1437520	1930139	2715059	0.029	0.028
55-59	1130244	1744211	2432399	0.043	0.028
60-64	1032136	1416133	2638377	0.032	0.052
65-69	902015	1003167	1855236	0.011	0.051
70-74	613422	734128	1485767	0.018	0.059
75-79	399089	501882	841140	0.023	0.043
80+	415465	542405	842816	0.027	0.037
Total	31841372	33406061	35487128	0.005	0.005

Table 2.6: Average Household Size in Kerala, 2023

Households size	Percent
1	7.5
2	18.9
3	19.0
4	25.3
5+	29.3
Total	100.0
Average HH Size	3.7
KMS 2018	4.0
Census 2011	4.3

The average household sizes have shown a decrease from 4.0 persons in 2018 to 3.7 persons in 2023. While the number of four and five plus member households is more, the number of single and two member households have increased in 2023 (Table 2.6)

Table 2.7: Marital Status of Keralites (All Ages) by Sex, Kerala, 2023

Marital status	Male	Female	Total
Never married	42.6	29.7	35.8
Married	55.1	56.5	55.8
Widow / Widower	1.6	12.8	7.5
Divorced	0.3	0.4	0.4
Separated	0.3	0.7	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.7 suggests that 55.8 percent of the total estimated population is married. While 35.8 percent have never married, 7.5 percent are widows/widowers. A significant gender difference is observed in the percentage of widows/ widowers. About 12.8 percent of females fall into this category, compared to only 1.6 percent of males. This is expected, as women tend to have longer life expectancies compared to men, in addition to marrying older men.

Table 2.8: Marital status of 18+ age group, 2023

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Never married	27.3	14.1	20.6
Married	70.1	69.3	69.7
Widow / Widower	1.9	15.3	8.6
Divorced	0.4	0.5	0.4
Separated	0.4	0.8	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Among the 18+ age group, 69.7 percent are married, 20.6 percent have never married, and 8.6 are widowed. 27.3 percent of adult males have never married compared to 14.14 percent of adult females. This suggests that a larger proportion of adult males are unmarried compared to adult females (Table 2.8)

Table 2.9: Religious Distribution of the Population, 2023

Religion	KMS 2023 (Percent)	Census 2011 (Percent)
Hindu	53.2	54.7
Christian	16.9	18.4
Muslim	29.3	26.6
Other religion	0.6	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Hindus are the major religious group in Kerala with 53.2 percent followed by Muslims at 29.3 percent and Christians at 16.9 percent (Table 2.9). Compared with data from the 2011 Census, the proportion of Hindus has decreased slightly, from 54.7 percent to 53.2 percent. The Christian population has seen a more significant decrease, from 18.4 percent in 2011 to 16.9 percent in 2023. Meanwhile, the proportion of Muslims has increased from 26.6 percent in 2011 to 29.3 percent in 2023.

Table 2.10 estimates the distribution of social groups in Kerala. Ezhavas form the largest group at 20.6 percent of the total population, followed by Nairs at 11.5 percent. Among Christians, the Syrian Malabar Roman Catholics form the largest group constituting 8 percent of the total population followed by Latin Catholics at 2.7 percent.

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Table 2.10: Social groups across Kerala, 2023

Social group	Proportion to total population
Nair	11.5
Ezhava	20.6
Brahmin	0.8
Nadar	0.6
Viswakarma	2.7
Barber/Washerman	0.1
Scheduled Caste/ Tribe	9.1
Others	7.9
Hindu	**53.2**
Syrian Malabar Catholic (RC)	8.0
Latin Catholic	2.7
Jacobite Syrian	1.3
Orthodox Syrian	1.3
Marthoma Syrian	0.9
C.S. I	0.6
S C (Dalit)	0.2
Pentecost Brethern	0.9
Others	1.0
Christian	**16.9**
Muslim	**29.3**
Other religions	**0.6**
Total	**100.0**

Table 2.11: Health Profile of the Population, 2023

Health profile	Proportion to total population
Member on KASP or Ayushman Bharat	18.6
Other Health insurance card	27.1
Vaccinated from COVID-19	83.6
Infected by COVID-19	15.8
Post Covid side effects	3.7
Have any chronic disease	16.3
Own Health Perception	
Very Bad or Bad	0.8
Bad	4.0
Moderate	16.7
Good	40.6
Very Good	37.9

Table 2.11 captures the health profile of the estimated population. There is a higher propensity of other health insurance schemes (27.1 percent), compared to KASP/ Ayushman Bharat insurance cards (18.6 percent). 83.6 percent of the population reported being vaccinated against COVID-19. While 15.8 percent were infected by COVID-19, 3.7 percent of the population developed post-Covid side effects. 16.3 percent also reported having one or more chronic

diseases. When it came to their own health perception, the majority (40.6 percent) reported having good health.

SECTION - 3

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

In 1998, there were 1.4 million emigrants from Kerala. By 2003, the number of emigrants had increased by 4.8 lakhs representing a 35 percent increase from 1998. In 2008, there was a further increase to 2.2 lakhs emigrants marking a 19.3 percent growth. A similar trend was observed in 2013, with a smaller growth of 2 lakhs, amounting to only a 9.4 per cent increase. However, by 2018, there was a notable decrease in emigrants to 2.1 million, reflecting a decline of 2.8 lakhs or a 11.6 percent decrease from 2013. The KMS 2023 estimated the number of emigrants as 2.2 million, an increase of 32,388 migrants as compared to 2018 (see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1). The declining trend of emigration was arrested due to an increase in student migration from Kerala to other parts of the world.

Table 3.1: Emigrants from Kerala, 1998-2023

Year	Emigrants	Inter-survey difference	Percent Increase/Decrease
1998	1361919	-	
2003	1838478	476559	35.0
2008	2193412	354934	19.3
2013	2400375	206963	9.4
2018	2121887	-278488	-11.6
2023	2154275	32388	1.5

Figure 3.1 Trends in Emigration, 1998-2023

28
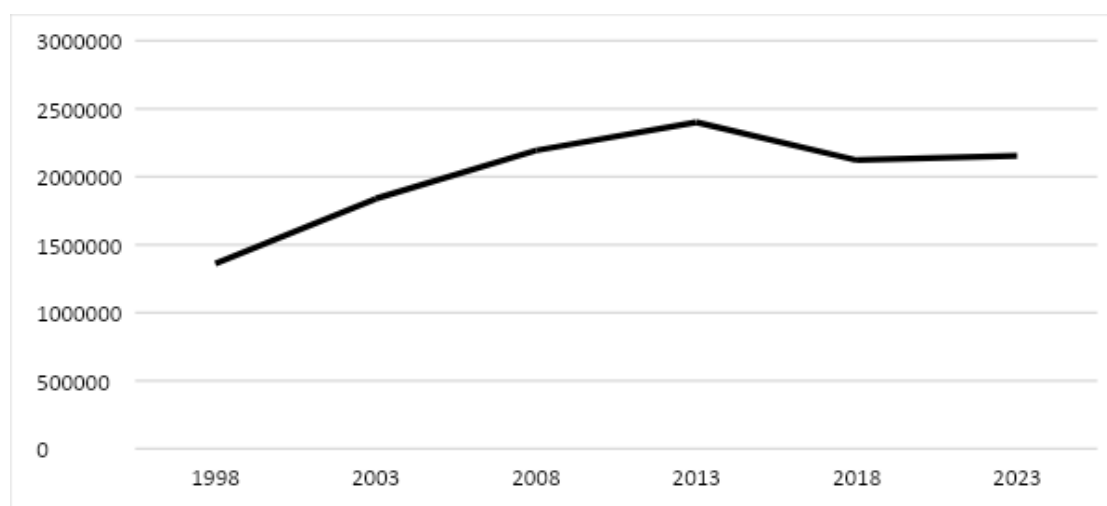
The data on emigrants by district from 1998 to 2023 highlights diverse trends and changes across various regions (Table 3.2). Kollam and Kannur saw a significant decrease in emigrants by 44,000 and 37,000 respectively in 2023, when compared to 2018. Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Malappuram also observed a decline in emigrants. Nineout of the total 14 districts saw a decline in number of emigrants in 2023, as compared to 2018 levels. However, Ernakulam, Palakkad and Kozhikode saw a significant growth in the number of emigrants in 2023.

Table 3.2: Emigrants by District, 1998-2023

Districts	Emigrants						Increase/decrease in migration	
	1998	2003	2008	2013	2018	2023	2023-2013	2023-2018
Thiruvananthapuram	130705	168046	308481	241727	137007	107917	-133810	-29090
Kollam	102977	148457	207516	199933	240527	195815	-4118	-44712
Pathanamthitta	97505	133720	120990	141343	109836	101624	-39719	-8212
Alappuzha	62870	75036	131719	93096	136857	134116	41020	-2741
Kottayam	35494	106569	89351	107931	166625	143824	35893	-22801
Idukki	7390	7880	5792	23967	32893	25304	1337	-7589
Ernakulam	103750	121237	120979	191373	53418	186956	-4417	133538
Thrissur	161102	178867	284068	230081	241150	233177	3096	-7973
Palakkad	116026	177876	189815	70506	89065	124277	53771	35212
Malappuram	296710	271787	334572	455696	406054	377647	-78049	-28407
Kozhikode	116026	167436	199163	226499	160691	193697	-32802	33006
Wayanad	4552	7704	13996	22568	30650	32341	9773	1691
Kannur	88065	202414	119119	291321	249834	212208	-79113	-37626
Kasaragod	38747	71449	67851	104334	67281	85372	-18962	18091
Total	1361919	1838478	2193412	2400375	2121887	2154275	-246100	32388

In 2023, the regional distribution of emigrants revealed that the North region had the largest share of emigrants, constituting 41.8 percent of the total emigrants. This was followed by the Central region contributing 33.1 percent, and the South region making up 25 percent (Table 3.3). The 2023 KMS findings reinstate the North region (Kannur and Calicut airports) as the primary hub for emigration, followed by the Central (Kochi airport) and South region (Thiruvananthapuram airport) providing valuable insights into migration trends within Kerala.

<h2 style="text-align:center">**Table 3.3: Regional Distribution of Emigrants, 2023**</h2>

Region	No of Emigrants	Percent
South	539472	25.0
Central	713537	33.1
North	901266	41.8
Total	2154275	100.0

Note:

South regions: Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha
Central regions: Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam
North regions: Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram

Table 3.4 reveals that Kollam, Kannur and Malappuram had a sharp fall in the number of emigrants per 100 households in 2023 with 24.9, 29.4 and 33.8 emigrants respectively as compared to 32.8, 38.8 and 42.1 emigrants per 100 households in 2018. Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Thrissur also experienced a significant decrease from the levels seen in 2018.

<h2 style="text-align:center">**Table 3.4: Emigrants per Household, 1998-2023**</h2>

Districts	**EMI per 100 Household**						**Percent**					
	2023	2018	2013	2008	2003	1998	2023	2018	2013	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	11.3	15.2	28.1	35.6	21.5	19.9	5.0	6.5	10.1	14.1	9.1	9.6
Kollam	24.9	32.8	28.9	30.8	24.4	18.4	9.1	11.3	8.3	9.5	8.1	7.6
Pathanamthitta	28.0	31.9	42.8	37.4	44.3	33.1	4.7	5.2	5.9	5.5	7.3	7.2
Alappuzha	21.8	23.6	16.9	24.2	15.2	13.2	6.2	6.4	3.9	6.0	4.1	4.6
Kottayam	25.3	31.3	21.5	18.2	24.0	9.1	6.7	7.9	4.5	4.1	5.8	2.6
Idukki	8.4	11.3	8.4	2.0	2.9	2.9	1.2	1.6	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.5
Ernakulam	18.6	5.8	22.5	15.1	16.9	17.0	8.7	2.5	8.0	5.5	6.6	7.6
Thrissur	24.4	27.9	28.9	38.9	27.2	30.4	10.8	11.4	9.6	13.0	9.7	11.8
Palakkad	15.3	12.2	10.5	32.1	32.6	18.3	5.8	4.2	2.9	8.7	9.7	8.5
Malappuram	33.8	42.1	53.7	53.4	45.0	49.2	17.5	19.1	19.0	15.3	14.8	21.8
Kozhikode	21.0	19.7	30.7	30.4	28.6	22.0	9.0	7.6	9.4	9.1	9.1	8.5
Wayanad	14.2	14.5	11.4	7.4	4.4	2.9	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3
Kannur	29.4	38.8	49.9	22.6	43.2	19.0	9.9	11.8	12.1	5.4	11.0	6.5
Kasaragod	24.3	21.3	36.2	26.3	30.6	19.1	4.0	3.2	4.3	3.1	3.9	2.8
Kerala	22.2	24.0	29.3	29.0	26.7	21.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Tirur (Malappuram) remains at the top with the highest number of emigrants at 109,133 emigrants, followed by Thalassery (Kannur) with 93,326 emigrants, and Tirurangadi (Malappuram) closely behind with 80,379 emigrants. Tirur taluk has demonstrated the highest number of emigrants in all the Kerala Migration Surveys conducted so far. . Ottappalam (Palakkad), Vadakara (Kozhikode), Kozhikode, Mukundapuram (Thrissur), Taliparamba (Kannur), Quilandy (Kozhikode), and Kannur also featured prominently on the list. Eight out of the 10 highest emigrant-sending taluks in Kerala belong to the Northern region of Kerala (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Ten Taluks with the Highest Number of Emigrants, 2023

Taluk	Emigrants	Taluk	Emigrants
Tirur	109133	Thalassery	93326
Tirurangadi	80379	Ottappalam	73286
Vadakara	69148	Kozhikode	64667
Mukundapuram	62552	Taliparamba	60164
Quilandy	59882	Kannur	58717

Table 3.6 highlights the taluks with the lowest number of emigrants. Devikulam (Idukki) had the smallest emigrant count with 860 individuals, followed by Vythiri (Wayanad) with 7087 emigrants, and Thodupuzha (Idukki) with 7875 emigrants. Mallappally (Pathanamthitta), Nedumangad (Thiruvananthapuram), Peerumade (Idukki), Chittur (Palakkad), Mananthavady (Wayanad), Mannarkad (Palakkad) and Kuttanad (Alappuzha) also featured on the list with low levels of emigrants. While three out of the ten lowest emigrant-sending taluks belong to Idukki, other taluks in the above table also belong to central and southern districts of Kerala.

Table 3.6: Ten Taluks with the Lowest Number of Emigrants, 2023

Taluk	Emigrants	Taluk	Emigrants
Devikulam	860	Peerumade	3177
Vythiri	7087	Chittur	7474
Thodupuzha	7875	Mananthavady	9288
Mallappally	9706	Mannarkad	10250
Nedumangad	10585	Kuttanad	12364

The KMS 2023 reveals the distribution of emigrants from Kerala across different countries of residence categorized by gender. Among the GCC countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood out with the highest percentage of emigrants among both males (40.2 percent) and females (31.6 percent), totalling 38.6 percent (Table 3.7 and 3.8).

Table 3.7: Country of Residence of Emigrants (Percent), 2023

Country	Male	Female	Total
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	40.2	31.6	38.6
Saudi Arabia	18.8	8.8	16.9
Oman	6.7	4.9	6.4
Qatar	9.9	5.2	9.1
Kuwait	5.8	5.9	5.8
Bahrain	3.9	3.1	3.7
GCC Countries	85.4	59.5	80.5
Europe (excluding United Kingdom)	2.4	5.3	3.1
United Kingdom	4.0	14.7	6.0
United States of America	1.6	4.6	2.2
Canada	2.0	4.6	2.5
Australia	1.2	3.0	1.5
New Zealand	0.5	1.9	0.8
Russia	0.1	0.6	0.2
Malaysia	0.4	0.2	0.4
South Africa	0.5	0.1	0.4
Singapore	0.3	1.2	0.5
Israel	0.0	1.2	0.2
China	0.1	0.2	0.2
Maldives	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Countries	1.3	2.4	1.5
Non-GCC Countries	14.6	40.5	19.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Saudi Arabia followed with 18.8 percent of male emigrants and 8.8 percent of female emigrants, contributing to a total of 16.9 percent. Among the non-GCC countries, the United Kingdom attracted 4.0 percent of male emigrants and 14.7 percent of female emigrants, constituting about 6.0 percent of the emigrants from Kerala. The United States of America, Canada, and Australia closely followed, hosting 2.2 percent, 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent of the emigrants from Kerala respectively. Overall, GCC countries accounted for 80.5 percent of emigrants and non-GCC countries accommodated 19.5 percent of emigrants in 2023.

Table 3.8: Country of Residence of Emigrants, 1998-2023

Year	GCC Countries (percent)	Non-GCC Countries (percent)
1998	93.8	6.2
2003	89.0	11.0
2008	88.6	11.4
2011	89.3	10.7
2013	86.3	13.7
2016	89.6	10.4
2018	89.2	10.8
2023	80.5	19.5

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The KMS 2023 illustrates the evolving trends in emigrants' choice of residence countries, specifically regarding GCC and non-GCC countries over the last two decades. Table 3.8 reveals a gradual decline in the percentage of emigrants residing in GCC Countries, dropping from 93.8 percent in 1998 to 80.5 percent in 2023. In contrast, the percentage of emigrants opting for non-GCC countries has shown a corresponding increase, climbing from 6.2 percent in 1998 to 19.5 percent in 2023. This data emphasizes a notable shift in emigrants' preferences towards non-GCC countries due to the large-scale migration of students.

Figure 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Emigrants by Year of Emigration, 1980-2023
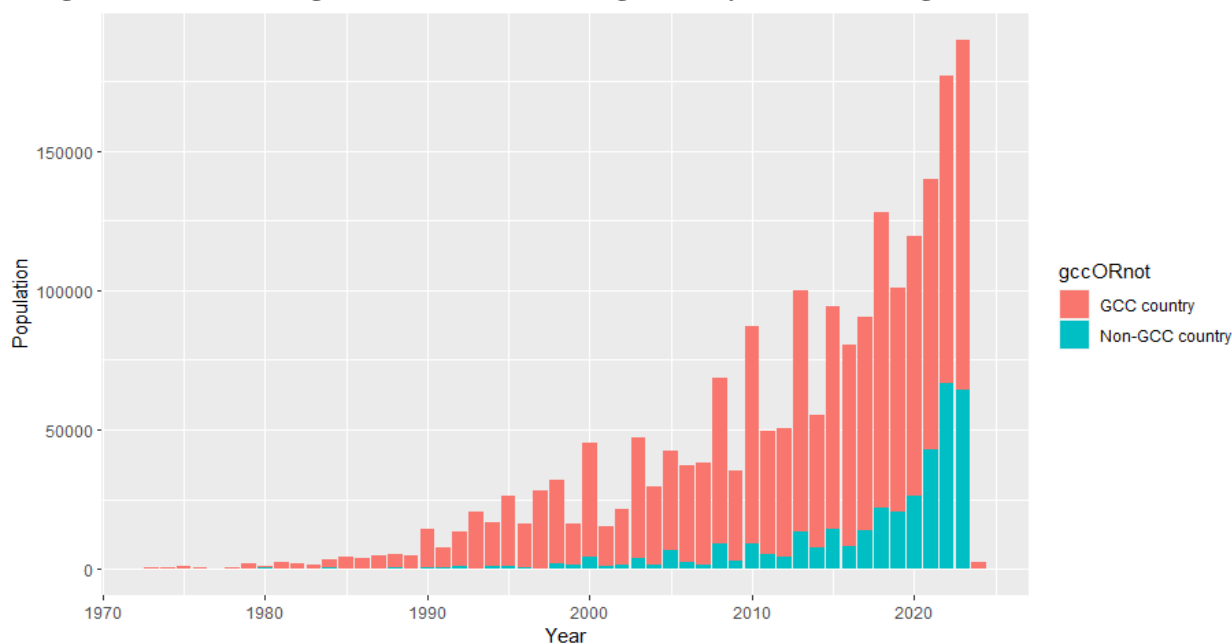
Figure 3.2 captures the trends of emigration depending on the year of migration. The number of emigrants shows a clear upward trend from 1980 to 2023. Of even greater significance is the distribution of Kerala emigrants between GCC and non-GCC countries over the years." Migration to non-GCC countries has increased considerably since 2010, along with the overall migration rates. The increasing migration rates to non-GCC countries have not translated into a significant decrease in migration to GCC countries.

Table 3.9: Percentage of Households with One or More Emigrants, 2023

No of Migrants	No of Households	Percent
0	16757	83.8
1	2585	12.9
2	400	2.0
3	134	0.7
4	75	0.4
5	34	0.2
6	7	0.0
7	3	0.0
8	5	0.0
Total	20000	100.0

The KMS 2023 data on households indicates that the majority of households (83.8 percent) had no emigrants. 12.9 percent of the households had at least one emigrant and 2.0 percent had two emigrants. Only 1.3 percent of the 20,000 households surveyed had more than three emigrants (Table 3.9).

Table 3.10 shows that among the total households with emigrants, 79.7 percent of the households had only emigrant and 20.3 percent had more than one emigrant. About 93.0 percent of households with emigrants in Thiruvananthapuram had only one emigrant whereas Kottayam had the lowest number of emigrant households wherein 67.1 percent of the households had only one emigrant. Conversely, Kottayam had the highest percentage of households with more than one emigrant at 32.9 percent, while Thiruvananthapuram had the lowest at 7.0 percent. More than 80 percent of the migrant households in Kollam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad had one emigrant. Consequently, all these districts had less than 20 percent of migrant households having more than one emigrant.

Table 3.10: Percentage of Households with One or More Emigrants by District, 2023

District	One Emigrant HH	More than One Emigrant HH
Thiruvananthapuram	93.0	7.0
Kollam	80.6	19.4
Pathanamthitta	77.0	23.0
Alappuzha	86.2	13.8
Kottayam	67.1	32.9
Idukki	82.5	17.5
Ernakulam	73.4	26.6
Thrissur	78.5	21.5
Palakkad	74.1	25.9
Malappuram	82.2	17.8
Kozhikode	80.1	19.9
Wayanad	85.5	14.5
Kannur	75.4	24.6
Kasaragod	75.2	24.8
Total	79.7	20.3

Table 3.11: Emigrants by religious groups, 2023

Religion	Percent of emigrant population	Percent of total population
Hindu	35.2	53.2
Christian	22.3	16.9
Muslim	41.9	29 .3
Others	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 3.11 shows the distribution of emigrants across different religious groups. The majority of the emigrants from Kerala are Muslims at 41.9 percent, followed by Hindus at 35.2 percent. Christians make up 22.3 percent of the emigrants. The substantial migration rate among Muslims is highlighted by the fact that they constitute 41.9 percent of the emigrant population, despite comprising only 29.3 percent of Kerala's overall population. Similarly, Christians constitute 22.3 percent of the emigrant population, despite accounting for only 16.9 percent of Kerala's total population.

Figure 3.3: Emigrants by Sex, District-wise, 2023
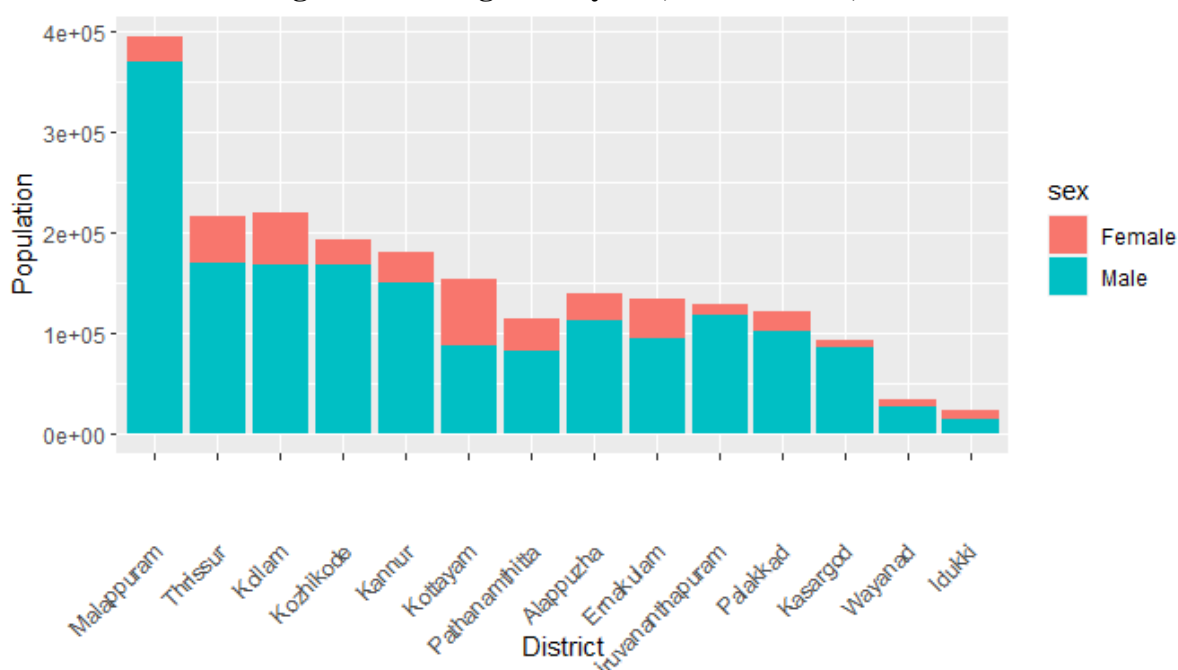
Figure 3.3 breaks down the number of emigrants by sex in all the districts of Kerala. For Kerala as a whole, only 19.1 percent of emigrants are females compared to 80.9 percent of male emigrants. The gap between male and female migrants is narrowest in Kottayam districts and

widest in Malappuram. International migration is dominated by males in all the districts of Kerala.

Table 3.12: Marital Status of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total Emigrants
Never married	28.7	36.8	30.3
Married	70.6	61.5	68.9
Widow / Widower	0.3	1.4	0.5
Divorced	0.3	0.0	0.3
Separated	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3.12 shows that 30.3 percent of the emigrants have never married and 68.9 percent are married. Less than 1 percent of emigrants were classified as widow/widower, divorced or separated. About 28.7 percent of male emigrants and 36.8 percent of female emigrants had never married. The majority of male emigrants (70.6 percent) and female emigrants (61.5 percent) were married. It is evident from that data that there are more unmarried female migrants when compared to their male counterparts. However, with regard to married individuals, there are more married males than married female emigrants.

Table 3.13 shows that 41.4 percent emigrants had completed their degree, whereas 26.7 percent and 17.7 percent of emigrants had only completed their primary and secondary education respectively. Among female emigrants, 71.5 percent of them had completed their degrees and 12.3 percent had completed their primary education. Similarly, 34.7 percent of male emigrants had completed their degrees and 29.8 percent had completed their primary education. Among degree holders who are migrants, females account for 71.5 percent compared to 24.7 percent among males – almost double than males.

Table 3.13: Education Status of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

Education Status	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	0.0	0.1	0.0
Less than Primary	1.2	3.5	1.6
Primary to Secondary	29.8	12.3	26.7
Higher Secondary	19.9	7.4	17.7
Diploma	14.3	5.2	12.7
Degree and above	34.7	71.5	41.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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Table 3.14 highlights the economic activity of emigrants by sex in 2023. It indicates that out of the total male emigrants, the majority of them (84.1 percent) were labour emigrants while 7.7 percent of them were students and only 3 percent were unemployed. In the case of females, 46.7 percent of female emigrants were employed in the labour force and 26.6 percent of them were student emigrants. A higher proportion of female emigrants were students (26.6 percent) compared to male emigrants (7.7 percent). Further, 21.5 percent of females reported not being in the labour force. Although student emigrants covered 11.3 percent of total emigrants, the labour migrants constituted the majority with 76.9 percent.

Table 3.14: Economic Activity of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Labour Force	84.1	46.7	76.9
Student	7.7	26.6	11.3
Unemployed	3.0	5.2	3.4
Not in Labour Force	5.2	21.5	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3.15: Occupation of Emigrants by Sex, 2023

Occupation	Male	Occupation	Female
Salesperson	12.9	Nurse and Nursing assistant	51.6
Car/Taxi driver	11.0	Engineer	4.3
Engineer	7.2	Teacher	3.6
Cashier, ticket clerks, clerks, accountant	4.8	Cashier, ticket clerks, clerks, accountant	2.9
Electrician	3.8	Household worker / Maid / Servant (full-time)	2.8
Mechanic	3.6	Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant	2.7
Manager	2.8	Doctor	2.2
Construction worker	2.7	Salesperson	1.9
Hotel administration related staff	2.2	Pharmacist	1.4
Storekeeper	2.1	Child care worker	1.2
Machinery repair worker / Welder	1.8	Cook	1.1
Cook	1.7	Data entry operator	1.1
Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant	1.7	Laboratory / X-ray Technician	1.0
Computer Programmer	1.6	Computer Programmer	1.0
Others	40.1	Others	21.2
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

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Table 3.15 captures the major occupations of emigrants by Sex. The majority of males were engaged as salespersons at 12.9 percent, followed by car/ taxi drivers at 11 percent. Regarding female emigrants, an overwhelming 51.6 percent of them were working as a nurse or nursing assistant. Occupations among men are more evenly distributed compared to female emigrants.

International student migration from India is a growing trend and Kerala is poised to become one of the top states in terms of students pursuing education abroad, this reflects the desire for high-quality education and better career opportunities among the students of Kerala. The KMS 2023 estimates 2.5 lakh student emigrants from Kerala with Ernakulam having the highest number of emigrant students at 43,990, followed by Thrissur and Kottayam with 35,873 and 35,382 students respectively. Wayanad had the lowest number of student emigrants from Kerala at 3750. (See table 3.16)

Table 3.16: International Student Migration by District, 2023

District	Emigrant Students	Percent
Thiruvananthapuram	4887	2.0
Kollam	21607	8.9
Pathanamthitta	10466	4.3
Alappuzha	14217	5.8
Kottayam	35382	14.5
Idukki	6946	2.9
Ernakulam	43990	18.1
Thrissur	35873	14.7
Palakkad	13692	5.6
Malappuram	15310	6.3
Kozhikode	15980	6.6
Wayanad	3750	1.5
Kannur	23512	9.7
Kasaragod	4391	1.8
Total	250002	100.0

Table 3.17: International Student Migration by Sex, 2023

Sex	Emigrant Students
Male	54.4
Female	45.6
Total	100.0

Figure 3.4: International Student Migration by Destination and Sex, 2023
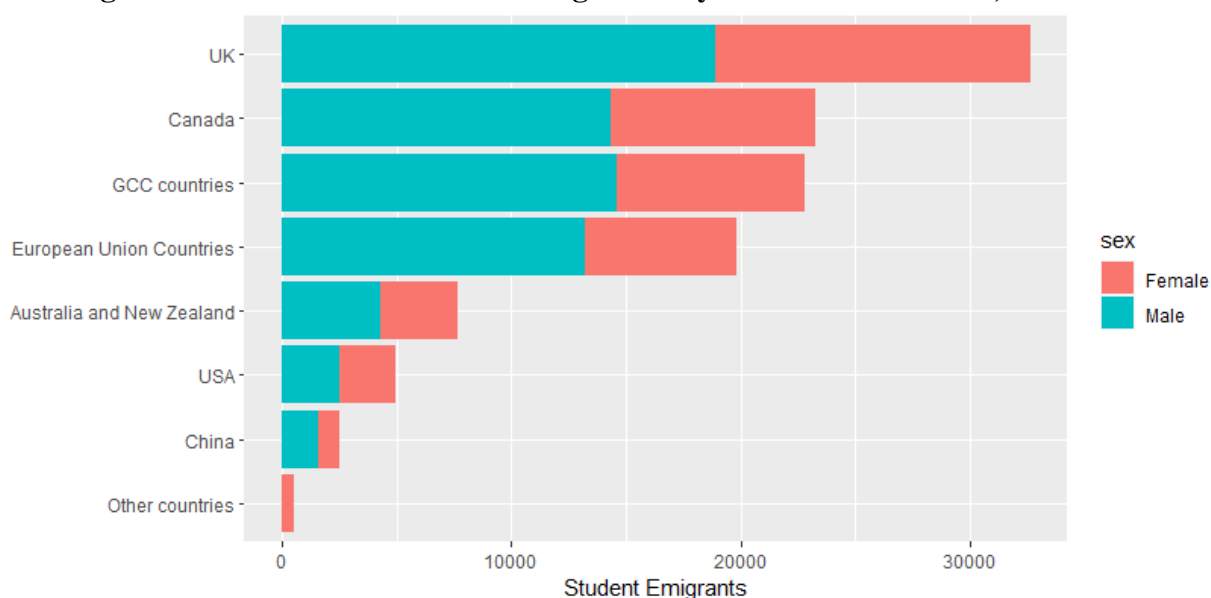
Considering the total number of international students aged above 16 years, over 80 percent have gone abroad for higher studies after completing their graduation in Kerala. Among the destinations in this regard, the United Kingdom was ranked the first, followed by Canada and other European Union countries (Figure 3.4). One out of four students from Kerala went to the United Kingdom for their higher studies, while one out of five students from Kerala opted for Canada.

54.4 percent of student emigrants from Kerala are males and 45.6 percent are females (Table 3.17). The gender disparity is hence narrower in the case of student emigrants when compared to the total emigrant population from Kerala, where over 80 per cent are males. The age pyramid of emigrants in the working age category shows a trend where more females are in the age categories between 25 and 44, while males are more evenly distributed between the various age groups from 25 to 60 years (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Age-Pyramid of Emigrants in the Working Age Category, 2023

Emigrant Workers

Age	Female	Male
75-79		
70-74		
65-69		▮
60-64		
55-59		
50-54		
45-49		
40-44		
35-39		
30-34		
25-29		
20-24		
15-19		

■ Female ■ Male
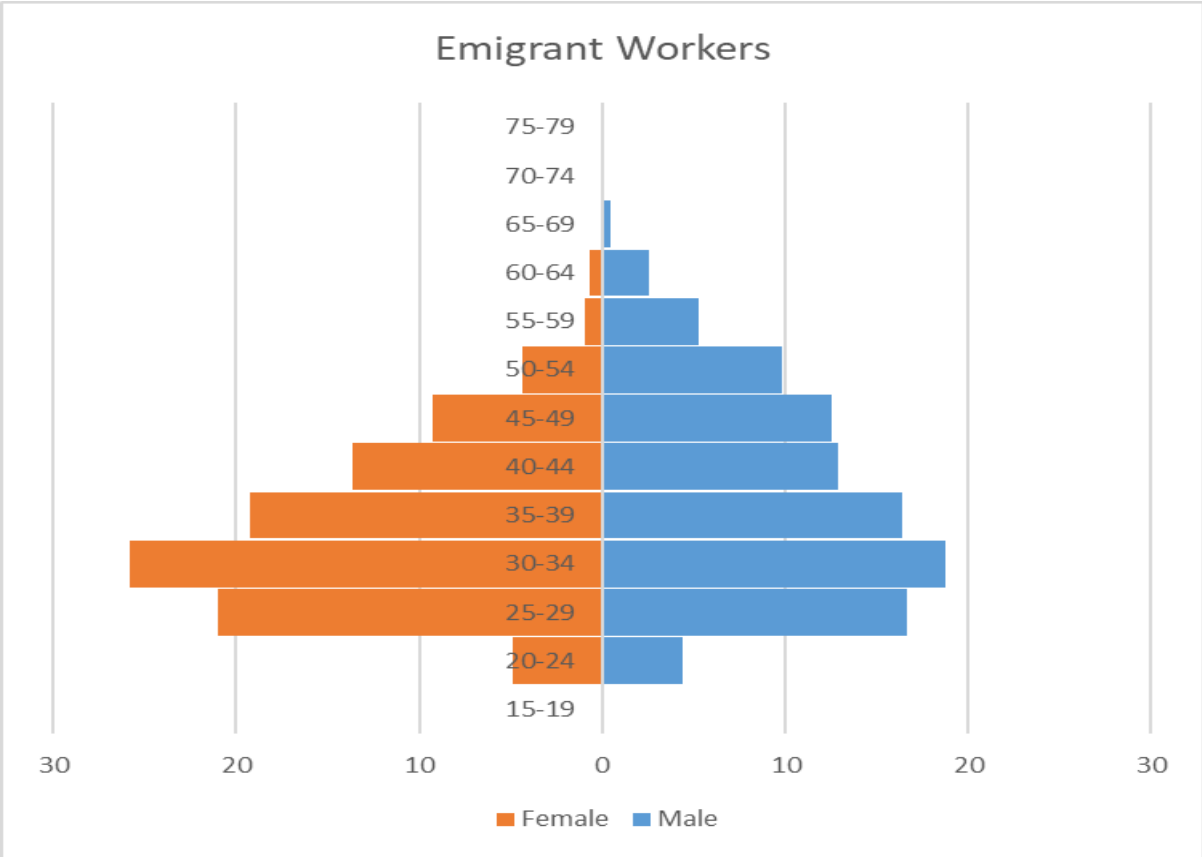
SECTION - 4

International Return Migration

The number of Return Emigrants (REM) has displayed a steady year-on-year increase from 1998 to 2023. The number increased by 20.9 percent in 2003 and 29.4 percent in 2008, followed by a decline in percentage increase in the number of REM in 2013 and 2018. However, the largest increase in REM was observed between 2018 and 2023, with an increase of 495,962 individuals, representing a 38.3 percent increase – the highest in the history of Kerala migration surveys (Table 4.1). This could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic, where people lost their jobs and were forced to return to Kerala

Table 4.1: Trends in Return Emigration, 1998- 2023

Year	Estimate	Increase	Percent Increase
1998	739245	--	--
2003	893942	154697	20.9
2008	1157127	263185	29.4
2013	1252471	95344	8.2
2018	1294796	42325	3.4
2023	1790758	495962	38.3

Table 4.2: Return Emigrants by Districts, 1998-2023

Districts	Number						Increase/decrease in Return migration	
	1998	2003	2008	2013	2018	2023	2023-2013	2023-2018
Thiruvananthapuram	118878	103059	215280	218945	93662	185695	-33250	92033
Kollam	74106	69314	124066	127978	165504	158481	30503	-7023
Pathanamthitta	54537	83502	60554	36285	54506	40921	4636	-13585
Alappuzha	34572	43109	51024	70104	99929	99494	29390	-435
Kottayam	18164	28368	26448	33898	41775	74277	40379	32502
Idukki	5017	3766	3213	3242	6137	13472	10230	7335
Ernakulam	45028	74435	68860	69545	23929	151849	82304	127920
Thrissur	116788	86029	174655	103803	94279	239439	135636	145160
Palakkad	39238	55008	85318	12383	57664	92689	80306	35025
Malappuram	123750	141537	219736	299857	309881	351176	51319	41295
Kozhikode	60910	109101	72405	107491	151417	210288	102797	58871
Wayanad	3327	3852	1930	12581	12046	16509	3928	4463
Kannur	28263	45394	26416	109145	94457	106408	-2737	11951
Kasaragod	16667	47468	27222	47212	89610	50062	2850	-39548
KERALA	739245	893942	1157127	1252471	1294796	1790758	538287	495962

Table 4.2 provides data on the number of REM in various districts of Kerala from 1998 to 2023. The overall trend indicates an increase in REM in Kerala, rising from 739,245 in 1998 to 1,790,758 in 2023. Districts like Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Malappuram showed

consistent growth in the number of REM over the years. The number of return migrants in 2023 has increased from 2018 in all the districts except in Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Kasargode.

Thrissur district had a significant increase in REM from 2008 to 2013, followed by a slight decrease by 2018, and then a substantial increase by 2023. Similarly, Ernakulam too saw a declining trend in number of REM from 2003, but there was a substantial rise in number of REM by 2023. However, Kasaragod district saw a notable increase in REM from 2003 to 2008, followed by a decrease in 2013 and a further decrease by 2018 and 2023.

Table 4.3: Return Emigrants per 100 Households, 1998-2023

Districts	REM per 100 HH						Per cent					
	2023	2018	2013	2008	2003	1998	2023	2018	2013	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	19.5	10.4	25.4	24.9	13.2	18.1	10.4	7.2	17.5	18.6	11.5	16.1
Kollam	20.2	22.6	18.5	18.4	11.4	13.2	8.8	12.8	10.2	10.7	7.8	10.0
Pathanamthitta	11.3	15.8	11.0	18.7	27.7	18.5	2.3	4.2	2.9	5.2	9.3	7.4
Alappuzha	16.2	17.3	12.7	9.4	8.7	7.2	5.6	7.7	5.6	4.4	4.8	4.7
Kottayam	13.1	7.9	6.7	5.4	6.4	4.6	4.1	3.2	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.5
Idukki	4.5	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7
Ernakulam	15.1	2.6	8.2	8.6	10.4	7.4	8.5	1.8	5.6	6.0	8.3	6.1
Thrissur	25.1	10.9	13.1	23.9	13.1	22.1	13.4	7.3	8.3	15.1	9.6	15.8
Palakkad	11.4	7.9	1.9	14.4	10.1	6.2	5.2	4.5	1.0	7.4	6.2	5.3
Malappuram	31.5	32.1	35.3	35.1	23.5	20.5	19.6	23.9	23.9	19.0	15.8	16.7
Kozhikode	22.8	18.5	14.6	11.0	18.6	11.5	11.7	11.7	8.6	6.3	12.2	8.2
Wayanad	7.3	5.7	6.3	1.0	2.2	2.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.5
Kannur	14.7	14.7	18.7	5.0	9.7	6.1	5.9	7.3	8.7	2.3	5.1	3.8
Kasaragod	14.2	28.4	16.4	10.5	20.3	8.2	2.8	6.9	3.8	2.4	5.3	2.3
KERALA	18.5	14.6	15.3	15.3	13.0	11.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.3 provides an overview of the trends in REM per 100 households across districts in Kerala from 1998 to 2023. The number of REM per 100 Households varies across different districts, ranging from as low as 0.8 in Idukki to as high as 19.6 in Malappuram. Although the return migrants per household is comparatively lower for Malappuram as compared to 2018, it is still the highest among other districts in 2023. Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad have shown an increase in the proportion of REM per 100 households, when compared to the 2018 KMS. Different districts have different patterns in terms of REM, with some districts showing an increasing trend over the years while others have fluctuated.

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Table 4.4: Ten Taluks with the Highest Number of Return Emigration, 2023

Taluks	REM
Tirurangadi	122933
Kozhikode	80509
Tirur	70058
Chirayinkeezhu	66781
Vadakara	64949
Quilandy	64830
Nilambur	63696
Mukundapuram	60541
Thalassery	53927
Kollam	53610

Table 4.4 highlights the ten taluks with the highest number of REM in Kerala in 2023, with Tirurangadi leading the list, followed by Kozhikode and Tirur. The data reveals significant regional disparities in return emigration, with taluks from northern regions like Malappuram and Kozhikode prominently featured. The varying numbers of REM suggest diverse patterns of migration, potentially driven by economic factors or employment opportunities.

Figure 4.1: Return emigrants, by year of return
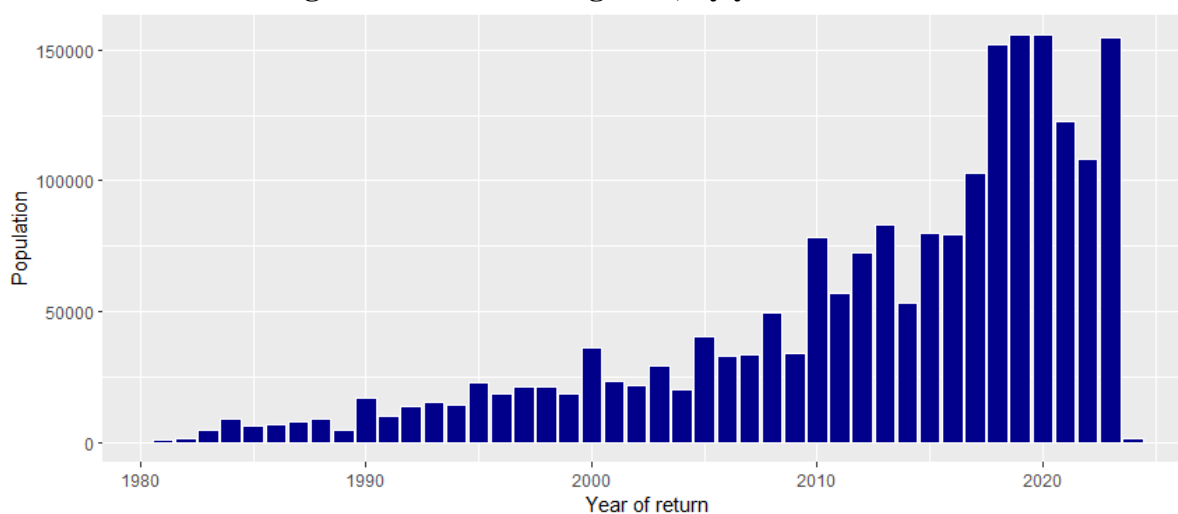
Table 4.5 Return emigrants, by year of return, 2023

Year	Percent
Before 1980	0.2
1981-1989	1.8
1990-1999	7.2
2000-2004	5.2
2005-2009	9.1
2010-2014	18.1
2015-2019	30.9
2020-2024	27.5
Total	100

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Table 4.5 provides an overview of REM by year of return from before 1980 to 2024. The frequency of REM varies across the years. From the years before 1980 to 2010, the trend of return was moderate, however, in 2019 and the years following the Covid-19 pandemic, the frequency shows a high rate. (See Figure 4.1)

Table 4.6 Marital Status during First Migration vs Current Marital Status of Return Emigrants, 2023

Marital Status	Before First Migration	Current Status
Never married	54.9	9.6
Married	44.7	87.5
Widow / Widower	0.3	2
Divorced	0.1	0.6
Separated	0.1	0.3
Total	100	100

Table 4.6 suggests that 54.9 percent of REM were never married during their first migration. However, this has significantly decreased to 9.6 percent currently. Additionally, the number of married individuals has increased substantially from 44.7 percent (before their first migration) to 87.5% at present. The data shows a significant change in the marital status of the individuals over time, indicating a trend towards higher rates of marriage among REM. The data highlights a notable decrease in the number of individuals who have never married, compared to their status before their first migration.

Table 4.7 Return Emigrants by Sex, 2023

Sex	Percent
Male	88.5
Female	11.5
Total	100

Table 4.7 highlights the distribution of REM by gender, showing that males constituted a larger proportion compared to females, with 88.5 percent for males and 11.5 percent for females. It indicates prevailing gender norms among REM in the context of Kerala where migration continues to be more accessible to men.

Table 4.8 shows the education status of REM, comparing their education at the time of first migration with their current education status. The data suggests that 31.9 percent of REM had completed education up to Class 10 during their first migration, and this trend persists, with 31.7 percent having attained education up to class 10. Additionally, the number of REM who completed education up to Class 12 during their first migration was 13.9 percent, which has increased slightly to 14.1 percent in their current educational status. It indicates that there is significant change in the educational status of REM over time.

Table 4.8 Education of Return Migrants, 2023

Education Status	Education at the time of First Migration	Current Education Status
Pre primary - Class 9	25.4	26.1
Class 10	31.9	31.7
Class 11	0.4	0.7
Class 12	13.9	14.1
ITI, Certificate course	5.2	4.9
Diploma	4.2	4.2
Degree	8.8	9.5
PG Diploma	0.2	0.4
Professional Degree	3.3	3.9
PG	1.5	1.8
Professional PG	1.4	1.9
Others	3.8	0.8
Total	100	100

Table 4.9 Economic Activity of Return Emigrants, 2023

Economic activity	During First Migration	During Last Migration	Economic Activity After Return
Own account worker (Employer)	1.9	2.5	3.9
Own account worker (self-employed)	5.8	5.0	15
Regular wage (salaried) in public sector	3.1	4.2	2.1
Regular wage (salaried) in private sector	32.5	43.4	13.6
Casual wage labour	29.9	26.2	26.6
Unpaid family labour	0.7	0.4	1.8
Household Chores/ House wife/ House husband	3.7	3.6	6
Student	4.4	2.8	2.7
Retired	0.1	0.4	4.3
Pensioner	0.1	0.3	2.6
Too old to work	0.2	0.4	7.9
Unemployed	13.6	6.7	10.2
Unable to work due to physical or mental disability	0	0.2	1.7
Too young to work	2.3	1.6	0.3
Others	1.7	2.3	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.9 provides an overview of the economic activity of REM based on three phases of the migration journey- first migration, last migration and after their return. Following their first

migration, there is a substantial decline in the proportion of students (4.4 percent) and unemployed individuals (13.6 percent), indicating a shift towards employment. This trend persisted during their last migration as well as after their return, suggesting a transition towards work. This transition is underscored by the significant increase in employment rate in both public sector (4.2 percent) and private sector (43.4 percent). Upon their return, there was a notable shift, with a rise in self-employment (15 percent) as well as an increase in the number of retirees (4.3 percent) and pensioners (2.6 percent) , reflecting a move towards retirement and self-sufficiency.

Figure 4.2: Return emigrants by last destination, 2023
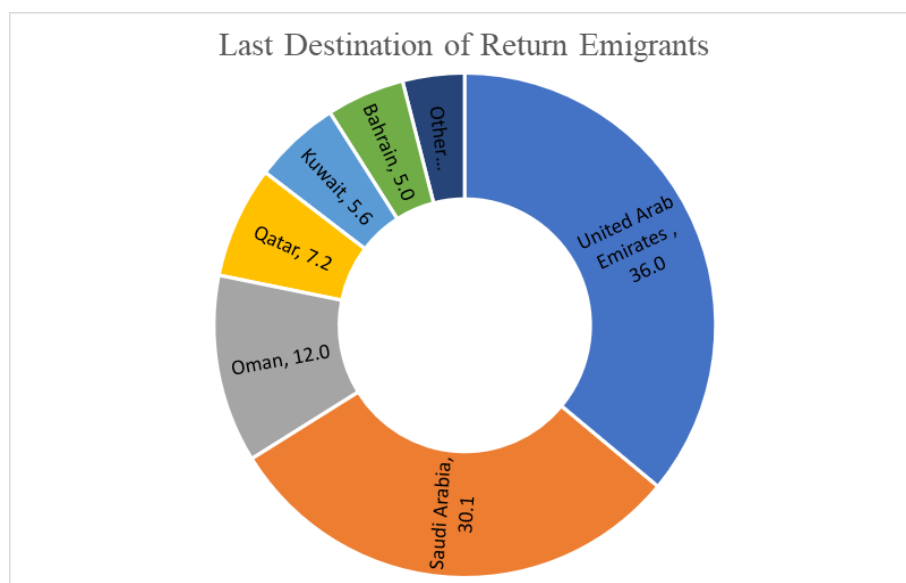
Majority of the REM are from the GCC countries, accounting for 86.4 percent of returnees. This is expected, as the majority of emigrants still migrate to GCC countries. The nature of migration to GCC countries is often temporary due to the strict restrictions on gaining citizenship and asset accumulation. Only 13.4 percent of REM is from non-GCC countries. Among GCC countries, the majority have returned from UAE (36 percent) followed by Saudi Arabia at 30.1 percent. Nationalization policies in Saudi Arabia could explain the high proportion of REM (30.1 percent) while the total share of emigrants in Saudi Arabia is only 16.9 percent. (See Figure 4.2)

Table 4.10: International Return Student Migrants by GCC and non GCC countries, 2023

Country of destination Before Return	International Student Migrants	Percentage
GCC Countries	40518	86.4
NON GCC Countries	6343	13.4
Total	46859	100.0

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Table 4.11: International Return Student Migrants by Sex

Sex	Percentage
Male	60.4
Female	39.6
Total	100.0

Table 4.12: International Return Student Migrants by Economic Activity after Return

Economic Activity	Percent
Student	49.1
Regular wage (salaried) in private sector	13.4
Unemployed	8.1
Own account worker (self-employed)	8
Casual wage labour	6.4
Household Chores/ House wife/ House husband	5.2
Others	4.6
Own account worker (Employer)	2.1
Unpaid family labour	2.1
Regular wage (salaried) in public sector	1
Total	100

Table 4.10 highlights the distribution of international return student migrants by country of destination, before returning to Kerala. The data reveals that 86.4 percent of the return student migrants were from GCC countries and 13.4 percent were from non GCC countries. This indicates the predominant trend of students returning to Kerala either with their NRI families or alone. Table 4.11 shows that 60.4 percent of international return student migrants were males and 39.6 percent were females, suggesting that a larger proportion of males return to Kerala. Table 4.12 shows that 49.1 percent aspired to pursue further education or academic endeavours in Kerala. However, the data also reveals employment challenges faced by returning student migrants, with 8.1 percent unemployed in the state. Furthermore, only 1 percent of students secured jobs in the public sector, highlighting the limited opportunities in this domain.

Table 4.13: Reasons for return, 2023

Reason for return	Percent
To retire	12.1
Home sickness	10.2
to care for elderly	7.9
To care for children	9.8
Accomplished goals for migration	4.4
Prefer to working in Kerala	16.1
Lost job/laid off	18.4
Illness/accident	11.2
Expiry of contract	5.3
Due to Covid -19	6.4
Compulsory expatriation	0.7
Low wages	13.8
Poor working conditions	7.5
Nationalization Issue	0.9
Visiting visa expired	2.8
Cancellation of employment visa	2.8
Political instability/ Economic Instability/ War	0.8
To migrate to another destination or same destination for different job	1.1
Others (Specify)	5.4
Total	100

The majority of the respondents reported the loss of jobs as a reason for return (18.4 percent). In fact, job-related reasons including low wages (13.8 percent), poor working conditions (7.5 percent), illness or accident (11.2 percent) at the workplace emerged as key reasons for emigrants returning to Kerala. The desire to work in Kerala (16.1 percent), homesickness (10.2 percent) and retirement (12.1 percent) also featured among the main reasons why emigrants chose to return. (Table 4.13)

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Section - 5

REMITTANCES

Table 5.1, captures the significant contributions made by emigrants on remittances and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits to Kerala's economy and society from 2000 to 2024. As expected, NRI deposits and remittances in absolute numbers have shown a steady increase on a yearly basis. The two largest spikes in remittance inflows to Kerala were observed during 2018-2019 (massive floods in Kerala) and 2022-2023 (post-covid period). Remittance inflows increased from ₹85,092 crores in 2017-2018 to ₹114,506 crores in 2018-2019. Similarly, remittance inflows displayed a sharp increase from ₹144,640 crores in 2021-2022 to ₹190,734 crores in 2022-2023. The KMS 2023 estimates the remittances at ₹ 216893 crores in 2023.

While rise in remittance inflows in 2018-2019 could be attributed to the 2018 Kerala floods that led to emigrants sending more money than usual to help with relief and reconstruction, the spike in 2022-2023 could be attributed to post-pandemic recovery and a general rise in migration numbers. Few other factors like migrants liquidating their savings and returning back to Kerala during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, a switch to more formal channels of money transfer in the face of uncertainties caused by the pandemic in the informal channels and attractive policy tweaks like free competition between banks on fixing interest rates and removal of caps on NRI deposits could have also played a major role in the spike in remittances received by Kerala in 2022-2023.

Kerala's share in the NRI deposits and remittances received by India as a whole has remained relatively stable throughout the years with minimal fluctuations. Barring the period from 2008 to 2016 when Kerala's share dropped below 20 percent. Despite this, Kerala's contribution to national income in the form of remittances has remained substantial. Given that remittances constitute 3.3 percent of India's GDP, it further underscores Kerala's significant contribution to the country's economic growth through remittances.

Table 5.1: Total Remittances to Kerala, 2000-2023

Year	Non-Resident Indian Deposits		Ratio	Rs (Crores)	
	India	Kerala			
	Crores Rs	Crores Rs	Kerala/ India	Remittance to India	Remittance to Kerala
2000-2001	94544	18724	0.1980	58855	11712
2001-2002	107686	21431	0.1990	68071	13601
2002-2003	122772	24534	0.1998	76155	16053
2003-2004	136088	28696	0.2109	96494	19299
2004-2005	150444	30100	0.2001	84247	17001
2005-2006	144282	29121	0.2018	97955	18562
2006-2007	161834	30671	0.1895	128310	23763
2007-2008	179788	33304	0.1852	149403	25578
2008-2009	174623	29889	0.1712	229479	40411
2009-2010	210118	37019	0.1762	234560	38093
2010-2011	227078	36886	0.1624	246274	40217
2011-2012	230812	37690	0.1633	301967	48798
2012-2013	299840	48454	0.1616	396600	64090
2013-2014	385202	66190	0.1718	412360	70857
2014-2015	624101	93883	0.1504	436418	65650
2015-2016	720997	109603	0.1520	440950	67031
2016-2017	841956	135609	0.1611	429453	69170
2017-2018	757751	152349	0.1900	447850	85092
2018-2019	820737	169944	0.2071	553000	114506
2019-2020	941002	190055	0.2020	601241	121433
2020-2021	970347	208698	0.2151	617882	132891
2021-2022	1070598	229636	0.2145	674336	144640
2022-2023	1134698	238409	0.2101	907792	190734
2023-2024	1154084	240975	0.2088	1038750	216893

Source: India: Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy, RBI, 2023-24 Non-Resident Deposits; State Level Banker's Committee, 2023 (RBI survey of inward remittances for 2023-2024)

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Table 5.2: Macroeconomic Impact of Remittances on Kerala's Economy, 1998-2023

	1998	2003	2008	2013	2018	2023
Total Remittances to Kerala (in crores)	13652	18465	43288	71142	85092	216893
NSDP (in crores)	53552	83783	140889	371384	632093	933564
Per Capita Income (in Rs.)	16062	25764	41814	110314	179523	263945
Revenue Receipt of Government (in Crores)	7198	10634	24936	49,177	83020	132724
Remittances as per cent of NSDP	25.5	22	30.7	19.2	13.5	23.2
Remittances as ratio of Revenue Receipt	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.4	1	1.6

Note: Calculated by using the figures from various Kerala Economic Reviews

From 1998 to 2023, Kerala's remittances and their steady increase have both contributed to and coincided with the state's substantial economic growth, as indicated by the continued rise in the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) (Table 5.2). Kerala's per capita income has also grown substantially over the years, reaching ₹2,63,945 in 2023. Government revenue receipts have steadily increased from ₹7,198 crores to ₹1,32,724 crores.

Remittances contributed to approximately a fourth of the state's NSDP until 2008, after which there was a slight decline to 19.2% in 2013 and 13.5% in 2018. In recent years, remittances have returned to being a significant contributor to the state's NSDP at 23.2%. Remittances as a ratio of revenue receipts have consistently hovered above the one-point mark, reflecting a steady relationship between these variables. Overall, the data highlights Kerala's increasing reliance on remittances and significant economic advancements over the past 25 years.

The data on total remittances, calculated from the RBI on NRI deposits, from 1998 to 2023 reveals a consistent upward trend, with remittances increasing significantly from ₹13,652 crores in 1998 to ₹216,893 crores in 2023 (Table 5.3). While the growth rates have varied over the years, the highest percentage increase was seen between 2018 and 2023 due to the resilience of migrants. This growth is mirrored in the rise of remittances per household from ₹96,185 in 2018 to 223,729 in 2023, indicating a substantial increase in the average remittance amount received per household.

Table 5.3 Trends in Total Remittances, 1998-2023

Year	Remittances (crores)	Percent Increase	Remittances Per Household (Rupees)
1998	13652	--	21,469
2003	18465	35.3	24,444
2008	43288	134.4	57,215
2011	49695	14.8	63,315
2013	71142	43.2	86,843
2018	85092	19.6	96,185
2023	216893	154.9	223,729

Table 5.4 provides a comparative analysis of remittances across various districts in Kerala during the years 2018 and 2023. In 2023, the total remittances to Kerala amounted to ₹216,893 crores, a significant increase from ₹85,092 crores in 2018. Kollam had the highest share, receiving ₹38,530 crores (17.8 percent of the total) in 2023, up from ₹12,748 crores (15.0 percent) in 2018, with per household remittances rising from ₹173,816 to ₹490,091. Thiruvananthapuram also saw a substantial increase in both total remittances (from ₹8,045 crores to ₹23,016 crores) and per household remittances (from ₹89,263 to ₹241,870).

Table 5.4 Total Remittances by Districts, 2023

Districts	Remittances (in Crores)		Percent to Total		Per HH (Rs)	
	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018
Thiruvananthapuram	23016	8045	10.6	9.5	241870	89263
Kollam	38530	12748	17.8	15.0	490091	173816
Pathanamthitta	9367	6150	4.3	7.2	257818	178375
Alappuzha	12189	4972	5.6	5.8	198380	85848
Kottayam	11283	2942	5.2	3.5	198497	55323
Idukki	1521	767	0.7	0.9	50475	26300
Ernakulam	17803	1205	8.2	1.4	177255	13130
Thrissur	19650	9280	9.1	10.9	205871	107350
Palakkad	6593	3518	3.0	4.1	81261	48105
Malappuram	35203	17524	16.2	20.6	315460	181781
Kozhikode	17752	7374	8.2	8.7	192769	90317
Wayanad	6363	1197	2.9	1.4	279983	56729
Kannur	14055	6427	6.5	7.6	194399	99857
Kasaragod	3567	2939	1.6	3.5	101411	93078
Kerala	216893	85092	100.0	100.0	223729	96185

Conversely, Pathanamthitta's share of total remittances decreased from 7.2 percent to 4.3 percent, despite an increase in absolute remittances. Other districts such as Ernakulam, Wayanad, and Kottayam experienced a notable increase in remittances and per household figures. Overall, the data indicates a significant rise in remittances and per household remittance amounts across Kerala.

From 1998 to 2023, household remittances to Kerala showed a consistent and substantial increase (Table 5.5). Starting at ₹3,530 crores in 1998, remittances more than doubled to ₹7,965 crores by 2003 (an increase in 125.6 percent). The upward trend continued, with remittances reaching ₹12,511 crores in 2008 (57.1 percent), ₹24,374 crores in 2013 (61.1 percent), ₹30,717 crores in 2018 (26.0 percent) and ₹37,058 crores in 2023 (20.6 percent). Overall, the total household remittances amounted to ₹37,058 crores in 2023, underscoring the crucial role of remittances in the state's economy and its overall development.

Table 5.5: Trend in Household Remittances to Kerala, 1998-2003

Years	Remittances (crores)	Percent Increase
1998	3,530	--
2003	7,965	125.6
2008	12,511	57.1
2011	15,129	20.9
2013	24,374	61.1
2018	30,717	26.0
2023	37,058	20.6

The data on household remittances across various districts of Kerala reveals significant economic contributions from migrants (Table 5.6). Kollam recorded the highest remittances with ₹6,583 crores, followed by Malappuram with ₹6,015 crores. Thiruvananthapuram (₹3,933 crores), Thrissur (₹3,357 crores), and Ernakulam (₹3,042 crores) also show high remittance levels, highlighting their sizable migrant communities. In contrast, Idukki (₹260 crores) and Kasargod (₹610 crores) reported the lowest figures, possibly due to fewer migrants.

Table 5.6: Household Remittances by Districts, 2023

Districts	HH Remittances in Crores
Thiruvananthapuram	3933
Kollam	6583
Pathanamthitta	1600
Alappuzha	2083
Kottayam	1928
Idukki	260
Ernakulam	3042
Thrissur	3357
Palakkad	1127
Malappuram	6015
Kozhikode	3033
Wayanad	1087
Kannur	2401
Kasaragod	610
Total	37058

As seen from Figure 5.1, average household remittances in 2023 have increased from 2018 in all the districts except Pathanamthitta, Palakkad, Kasargod and Malappuram.

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Figure 5.1: Distribution of Household Remittances by District, 2018 and 2023
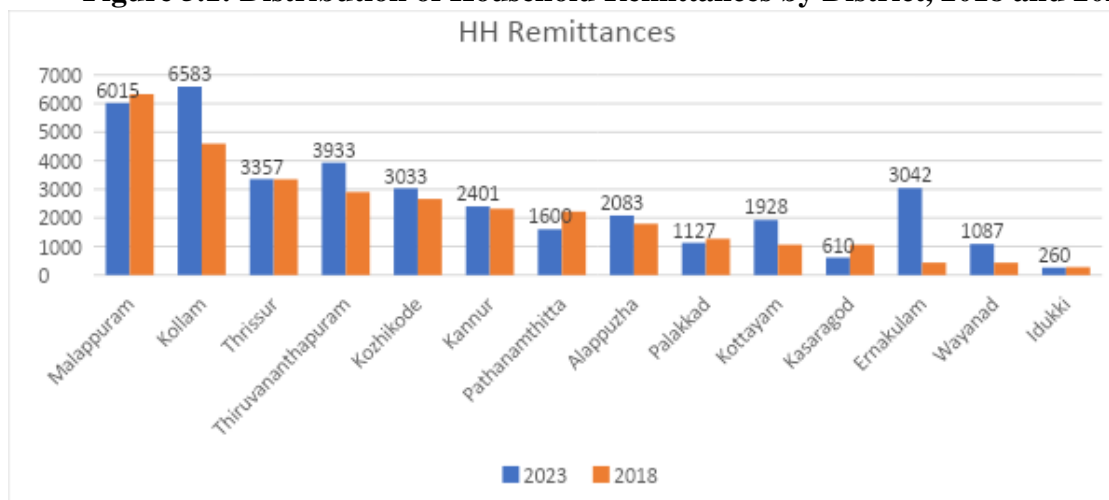
Table 5.7 shows that the Muslim community continues to be the highest recipient of remittances, followed closely by the Hindu and then the Christian communities. The gap in remittances between Hindu and Muslim communities has reduced over the last decade. However, the Christian community has shown an increase in the proportion of remittances received, from 7.7 percent in 2018-2013 to 23.1 percent in 2018-2023. Both Muslim and Hindu communities have experienced a decline in growth of the proportion of remittances received in recent years with 30.7 percent in 2018-2013 to 26.7 percent in 2023-2018 in the case of Hindu communities, and 32.17 percent in 2018-2013 to 14.1 percent in 2023-2018 in the case of Muslim communities.

Table 5.7: Household Remittances by Religion, 2023

	HH Remittances			Per cent Increase		Per cent		
	2023	2018	2013	2023-2018	2018-2013	2023	2018	2013
Hindus	14490	11431	8745	26.8	30.7	39.1	37.2	35.9
Christians	7698	6252	5806	23.1	7.7	20.8	20.4	23.8
Muslims	14870	13034	9823	14.1	32.7	40.1	42.4	40.3
Total	37058	30717	24374	20.6	26.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 5.8 highlights the modes used by migrants to send remittances. The predominant method includes bank account transfers, accounting for a significant 81.0 percent of all remittances. This is followed by UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transfers, which constituted 13.5 percent. A smaller fraction, 3.6 percent, relied on cash being sent through family friends or relatives. Only 1.7 percent of remittances were made in cash when the migrant worker returned home. Overall, the data underscored an overwhelming preference for digital and formal channels to send remittances.

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Table 5.8: Mode of Remittances by Kerala's Emigrants, 2023

Mode	Percent
Bank account transfer	81.0
UPI Transfer	13.5
Cash via family friend / relative	3.6
Cash when the migrant worker comes back	1.7
Others	0.2
Total	100.0

Table 5.9 illustrates the periodicity of remittances sent by migrant workers. The most common frequency is monthly, with 73.3 percent of workers remitting funds once a month. This is followed by a quarterly frequency, where 19.3 percent of workers send remittances every three months. A smaller proportion, 4.6 percent, remits funds semi-annually, or once every six months. The remaining 2.7 percent of workers remit at other intervals. This data indicates a strong preference for regular and frequent remittance schedules, predominantly on a monthly basis.

Table 5.9: Periodicity of Remittances by Migrants in Kerala, 2023

Frequency	Percent
Once in a month	73.3
Once in three months	19.3
Once in six months	4.6
Other intervals	2.7
Total	100.0

Table 5.10 and 5.11 analyses the usage pattern of remittances among migrant households. The key areas of the investment of migrant households include the renovation of houses/shops (15.8 percent), paying off loans from banks (14 percent), educational expenses (10 percent) and saving as cash in hand (9.9 percent). The largest median amount was spent for paying off debts (₹ 60,000 in the last fifteen years) followed by a median amount of ₹ 50,000 (spent in the last five years) for savings and investment in immovable properties like land. Other than expenditure (median of ₹ 25,000 per month), the largest investment appeared to be in education with a median spend of ₹10,000 per month. This highlights the importance accorded to human development by Kerala's migrants

Table 5.10: Median Amount to Use of Remittances, 2023

Particulars	Median (Amount in Rs)
Day to day expenses (Food/Clothing/drinks/tobacco)	7000
Education (Monthly)	10000
Health & medical (Monthly)	5000
Investment (Immovable)	50000
Expenditure (Monthly)	25000
Debt	60000
Savings	50000
Total Money value of goods received as gifts (in Rs.)	20000

Table 5.11: Percentage Distribution of Use of Remittances

Particulars	Percent
Day to day expenses (Food/Clothing/drinks/tobacco)	6.9
Education	10.0
Health & medical	7.7
Purchase/ Improve land	5.6
Renovation of house/shop	15.8
Pay off loans from bank	14.0
Savings as cash in hand	9.9
Purchase of apartment/shop/House	5.3
Purchase of Car/Bike etc	4.7
Savings and fixed deposits in banks/post office/chit funds	4.3
Special Occasions (Eg: Weddings/Funerals)	3.6
Pay others/loans from informal credit sources	2.8
Purchase of jewellery/gold	2.4
Purchase of Households Goods (TV, sofa, etc)	2.2
Life Insurance	1.9
Donations	0.7
Insurance (Systematic Investment Plan/ any other)	0.2
Financing migration of other family members	0.6
Total Money value of goods received as gifts (in Rs.)	1.3
Total	100.0

Section - 6

Internal Migration

Table 6.1 provides the distribution of out migrants and return out migrants across the districts of Kerala. On the whole, Kerala has almost3.5 Lakhs return out migrants and 4.7 lakh out migrants. The highest number of out migrants is in Palakkad (55,601), possibly due to the close proximity of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The lowest number of out migrants is in Idukki (10,550).

Table 6.1: Out migrants and Return Out migrants by District, 2023

District	Return Out migrants	Out migrants
Palakkad	25094	55601
Ernakulam	54695	53756
Kollam	36569	48330
Kozhikode	19045	44496
Kottayam	37261	44084
Kannur	19107	43544
Alappuzha	42932	42301
Thrissur	67026	39874
Pathanamthitta	13762	24546
Wayanad	6420	19178
Malappuram	15533	16300
Thiruvananthapuram	13582	14948
Kasaragod	1788	14918
Idukki	4475	10550
Total	357289	472426

Thrissur has the highest percentage of return out migrants at 17.4 percent (58,191 individuals), followed by Kollam with 13.1 percent (43,838) and Alappuzha with 12.8 percent (42,948). Ernakulam and Kottayam also have significant shares at 9.9 percent (33,289) and 8.9 percent (29,785), respectively. In contrast, districts like Idukki, Kasaragod, and Malappuram reported the lowest percentages, with Idukki and Kasaragod having 1.3 percent (4,319) and 0.8 percent (2,661) respectively.

Table 6.2: Out Migrants by Destination State, 2023

State	Out Migrants	Percentage
Karnataka	218386	45.2
Tamil Nadu	79697	16.5
Maharashtra	48868	10.1
New Delhi	25584	5.3
Andhra Pradesh	21466	4.4
Gujarat	20219	4.2
Punjab	8901	1.8
Madhya Pradesh	7788	1.6
Jammu & Kashmir	7226	1.5
Uttar Pradesh	6740	1.4
Goa	4656	1
Haryana	3347	0.7
West Bengal	3453	0.7
Assam	2391	0.5
Bihar	2333	0.5
Chattisgarh	2473	0.5
Orissa	2431	0.5
Rajasthan	2512	0.5
Andaman Nicobar	1891	0.4
Pondicherry	2052	0.4
Uttaranchal	2014	0.4
Himachal Pradesh	1469	0.3
Jharkhand	1472	0.3
Arunanchal Pradesh	983	0.2
Chandigarh	989	0.2
Nagaland	920	0.2
Sikkim	986	0.2
Lakshadweep	483	0.1
Manipur	490	0.1
Meghalaya	466	0.1
Total	482683	100.0

Table 6.2 represents the destinations of out migrants from Kerala. Karnataka emerges as the state with the most number of out migrants from Kerala accounting for 45.2 percent. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra were among the top 3 destination states for Kerala's out migrants. Karnataka topped the list with a total estimation of 218,386 out migrants, i.e., 45.2 per cent of the total internal out migrants, followed by Tamil Nadu, 79,697 (16.6 per cent), and Maharashtra, 48,868 (10.5 per cent). The destinations with the least proportion of out migrants include north eastern states like Nagaland (0.2 per cent), Sikkim (0.2 per cent), Manipur (0.1 per cent) and Meghalaya (0.1 per cent). The National capital, Delhi was also among the top destinations, attracting an estimated 25,584 (5.3 per cent) out migrants.

Table 6.3: Out Migrants by Sex, 2023

Sex	Percentage
Male	64.4
Female	35.6
Total	100

Out of total out migrants, 64.4 per cent were males and 35.6 per cent were females (Table 6.3). More than half of the total out migrants, i.e., 53.8 per cent was never married, while 45.4 per cent are married individuals. About 0.3 per cent of them are widowed, and 0.3 per cent and 0.2 per cent were separated or divorced, respectively (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Out Migrants by Marital Status, 2023

Marital Status	Percent
Never married	53.8
Married	45.4
Widow / Widower	0.3
Divorced	0.3
Separated	0.2
Total	100

25 per cent of total out migrants completed their 12th grade before their first migration. The decrease in the same class category after migration indicates that many migrated for higher studies after Class 12. The highest proportion of out migrants' current educational status is a professional degree (24.6 per cent). This was 16.3 per cent prior to the first migration, followed by degree, which is 20.6 per cent, and a professional PG with 10.2 per cent current educational status (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5: Out Migrants by Education, 2023

Educational Status	Before First Migration	Current Educational Status
Pre-primary to Class 9	6.8	7.4
Class 10	7.2	7.2
Class 11	0.5	0.7
Class 12	25	12.1
ITI, Certificate course	2.6	2.8
Diploma	5	6
Degree	18.7	20.6
PG Diploma	0.6	0.8
Professional Degree	16.3	24.6
PG	4.5	5.8
Professional PG	7.1	10.2
M.Phil, Ph.D etc.	0.2	0.4
Others	5.5	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 6.6: Out Migrants by Economic Activity, 2023

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Economic Activity	Before First Migration	Current Activity Status
Student	45.6	27.4
Regular wage (salaried) in private sector	16.5	36.4
Unemployed	15.1	2.4
Casual wage labour	4.6	4.7
Regular wage (salaried) in public sector	4.3	13.6
Too young to work	4.2	1.9
Household Work	3.2	4.6
Own account worker (self-employed)	2.3	3.5
Own account worker (Employer)	2.0	2.5
Retired	0.2	0.9
Too old to work	0.2	0.1
Others	1.8	2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 6.7: Student Out Migrants by Destination State, 2023

State	Student Out Migrants	Percentage
Karnataka	67195	50.8
Tamil Nadu	27696	20.9
Maharashtra	7429	5.6
New Delhi	6983	5.3
Andhra Pradesh	5767	4.4
Gujarat	3392	2.6
Goa	1822	1.4
Uttar Pradesh	1919	1.4
Punjab	1540	1.2
Madhya Pradesh	1288	1
Chattisgarh	1009	0.8
Rajasthan	1002	0.8
Andaman Nicobar	946	0.7
Himachal Pradesh	986	0.7
Uttaranchal	968	0.7
West Bengal	948	0.7
Arunanchal Pradesh	479	0.4
Jharkhand	473	0.4
Pondicherry	514	0.4
Total	132354	100.0

While 45.6 percent of the out migrants (before the first migration) were students only 27.4 percent were students after migration. This indicates a transition to employment after the completion of education. This is further supported by the increase in the proportion of regular wage (salaried) individuals in the private sector. This proportion was 16.5 percent during the first migration and doubled to 36.5 percent after the out migration to the destination state (Table

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6.6). It was found that out migration reduced the unemployment rate from 15.1 per cent to 2.4 per cent, and increased the number of individuals working in the public sector from 4.3 per cent in the home state to 13.6 per cent in the destination states.

Table 6.8: Student Out Migrants by Sex, 2023

Sex	Percentage
Male	42.2
Female	57.8
Total	100

Out of the estimated 132,352 student out migrants, 67,195 (50.8 per cent) went to Karnataka, followed by Tamil Nadu (27,696 constituting 20.9 per cent) and Maharashtra (7,429 constituting 5.6 per cent). Delhi, with 6,983 out migrants (5.3 percent), and Andhra Pradesh, with 5,767 migrants (4.4 per cent), occupied the 4th and 5th positions respectively (Table 6.7). The largest proportion of student out migrants were females with 57.8 per cent as opposed to males who comprised 42.2 per cent of total student out migrants (Table 6.8)

Table 6.9: Return Out Migrant by Sex, 2023

Sex	ROM
Male	75.2
Female	24.8
Total	100

Return out migration by sex shows that the majority of return out migrants are male, comprising 75.2 percent, while female return out migrants make up 24.8 percent. This trend can be attributed to various socio-economic factors, such as employment patterns where men are more likely to migrate for job opportunities to support their families back home. Further, family responsibilities and cultural expectations may influence the decision to migrate or return. Men are more inclined to move for work and later return. Overall, the data indicates a significant gender disparity in return out migration. (Table 6.9)

Table 6.10: Return out Migration by Education, 2023

Education	Education at the time of First Migration	Current Education Status
Pre-primary to Class 9	12.2	12.9
Class 10	27.8	26.3
Class 12	20.9	0.4
ITI, Certificate course	3.2	12.5
Diploma	5.5	3.2
Degree (BA, BSc, Bcom, BLIScetc)	16.5	5.6
PG Diploma (PGDCA etc.)	0.2	19.6
Professional Degree	4	0.4
PG (MA, MSc, MCometc)	2.8	8.5
Professional PG	2.3	5.5
M.Phil, Ph.D etc.	0.2	4.7
Illiterate	2.7	0.2
Others (Specify)	1.6	0.3
Total	100	100

Table 6.10 provides the educational qualifications of return out migrants during their first migration and their current educational status. It indicates that a significant proportion of return out migrants had completed their education up to Class 10 before their first migration (27.8 percent), and this percentage remains high in their current education status (26.3 percent) as well. A substantial number had completed Class 12 (20.9 percent) during their first migration, but their current education level is only 0.4 percent, indicating that many migrate after Class 12 for higher studies. This trend is further supported by similar observations for degree, postgraduate (PG), and professional PG qualifications.

In the case of vocational courses like ITI, the disparity between the level of education at first migration (3.2 percent) and current migration (12.5 percent) suggests that many individuals migrate and return with newly acquired skills. This pattern is also evident in postgraduate diploma courses, where the difference indicates that many return with advanced skills after the completion of their courses—education at first migration being 0.2 percent and current education status being 19.6 percent. Overall, the data reflects a trend of return out migrants enhancing their educational qualifications, particularly through vocational and advanced studies.

Table 6.11: Return Out Migration by Economic Activity, 2023

Economic activity	During First Migration	During Last Migration	Economic Activity After Return
Own account worker (Employer)	2.1	3.1	3.9
Own account worker (self-employed)	2	2.6	7.4
Regular wage (salaried) in public sector	11.9	21.6	4.9
Regular wage (salaried) in private sector	17.9	27.9	14.9
Casual wage labour	8.6	9	10.1
Unpaid family labour	0.9	0.6	0.9
Household work	5.5	4.9	9.3
Student	24.7	15.7	4.1
Retired	0.6	2.3	17.3
Pensioner	0.4	1.0	10.9
Too old to work	0.4	0.4	6.4
Unemployed	19.4	6.9	8.6
Too young to work	4.0	1.7	0.3
Others	1.7	2.2	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6.11 provides an overview of the economic activity of return out migrants at three stages: during their first migration, their last migration, and after their return. A significant proportion of students (24.7 percent) and unemployed (19.4 percent) declined after the first migration. The further declines during the last migration and the post-return phase indicate their transition to employment. This is further supported by the increase in employment in public (21.6 percent) and private sectors (27.9 percent), during their last migration. After returning, there's a notable shift with increased self-employment (7.4 percent) and higher numbers of retirees (17.3 percent) and pensioners (10.9 percent), reflecting a transition towards retirement and self-sustenance. The data highlights the dynamic changes in the economic roles of return migrants, from initial education and job-seeking phases to employment, and eventually retirement or self-employment upon return.

Table 6.12: Return Out Migrants by Last Destination State

States	ROM	Percentage
Karnataka	17407	33.1
Tamil Nadu	16925	32.2
Maharashtra	4798	9.1
New Delhi	3350	6.4
Andhra Pradesh	2759	5.2
Gujarat	1942	3.7
Madhya Pradesh	1487	2.8
Andaman Nicobar	536	1.0
Goa	514	1.0
Pondicherry	504	1.0
Punjab	504	1.0
Arunachal Pradesh	473	0.9
Assam	466	0.9
Rajasthan	466	0.9
Uttar Pradesh	490	0.9
Total	52620	100.0

Table 6.12 provides data on return out migrants in Kerala categorized by their last destination state. The highest percentages of return out migrants are from Karnataka (33.1 percent) and Tamil Nadu (32.2 percent), together accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total. This indicates strong migration links with these neighbouring states. There were also moderately high numbers of return out migrants from Maharashtra (9.1 percent) and New Delhi (6.4 percent), reflecting migration vis-a-vis major economic hubs.. Other states such as Andhra Pradesh (5.2 percent), Gujarat (3.7 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (2.8 percent) have smaller but notable percentages. The remaining states, including Andaman Nicobar, Goa, Pondicherry, and others, each account for around 1 percent (or less) of return migrants.

Table 6.13: Return Out Migrant Students by State of Last Educational Institution

States	Student Return Out migrants	Percentage
Karnataka	17407	33.1
Tamil Nadu	16925	32.2
Maharashtra	4798	9.1
New Delhi	3350	6.4
Andhra Pradesh	2759	5.2
Gujarat	1942	3.7
Madhya Pradesh	1487	2.8
Andaman Nicobar	536	1
Goa	514	1
Pondicherry	504	1
Punjab	504	1
Uttar Pradesh	490	0.9
Arunanchal Pradesh	473	0.9
Assam	466	0.9
Rajasthan	466	0.9
Total	52620	100

From Table 6.13 we know the highest percentages of student return out migrants are from Karnataka (33.1 percent), Tamil Nadu (32.2 percent), Maharashtra (9.1 percent), and New Delhi (6.4 percent). These findings align with Table 6.7, which indicates that students prefer to migrate to major economic and educational hubs for higher education. Smaller but notable percentages from states such as Andhra Pradesh (5.2 percent), Gujarat (3.7 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (2.8 percent) further emphasize the diverse geographic preferences of students. Overall, the data underscores the trend of Kerala students seeking educational opportunities in key states known for their academic and economic environments.

Table 6.14: Student Return Out migrants by Sex

Sex	Percentage
Male	64.2
Female	35.8
Total	100

Among the student return out migrants, 64.2 percent are males while 35.8 percent are females. The majority of student out migrants are female. They also display a preference to stay at their migration destinations, as evidenced by the lower rate of student return out migration among females. (Table 6.14)

Section - 7

Migration and Development

Migration is a major driver of development in Kerala and has played a central role in the state's achievements in human development, especially in the fields of education, health and quality of life. Table 7.1 gives an indication of the asset-holding capacity of households depending on their migration status. Those households, which have been influenced by migration in one form or the other (having inter-state or international, current or return migrants), possess more assets than households with non-migrants. The difference is particularly sharper in the case of luxury goods like motor cars, microwave ovens, air-conditioners and inverters. While only 7.5 percent of non-migrant households owns air conditioner, 21 percent of households with emigrants own air conditioners. Similarly, only 23.7 percent of non-migrant households own a motor car, when compared to 39.7 percent for emigrant households and 42.6 percent for out migrant households. The ownership of consumer durables and other assets signal the increasing purchasing power of migrant households compared to non-migrant households.

Table 7.1: Household Assets by Household Type, 2023

Assets	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Motor Car	23.7	39.7	33.4	42.6	43.8	28.5
Taxi/Auto	5.0	3.0	7.0	3.0	3.8	4.8
Truck/Lorry	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.6
Two wheelers	53.0	61.5	66.1	60.8	64.6	56.4
Bicycle	9.2	10.4	11.0	7.1	10.6	9.6
Mobile Basic	31.5	22.5	24.1	22.1	22.1	28.7
Mobile Smart	72.6	85.4	83.4	84.3	82.8	76.5
Television – Old	26.3	13.8	17.6	21.7	17.8	22.9
Television- New	53.7	70.8	64.3	70.5	68.2	58.6
Refrigerator	67.1	85.2	82.5	85.7	83.7	72.8
Washing Machine	34.6	60.8	49.1	54.2	60.5	41.8
Microwave Oven	4.3	11.1	6.9	9.7	12.9	6.1
Computer/Laptop	11.0	18.5	15.0	23.5	22.3	13.4
Internet	7.1	14.4	10.7	15.0	18.1	9.2
AC	7.5	21.0	13.4	15.7	19.4	10.9
Inverter	7.4	18.1	13.2	15.0	18.3	10.3

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Constructing a luxurious house and investing in real estate has become the hallmark of an international migrant from Kerala. These practices often constitute an avenue to flaunt one's prosperity. Data from Table 7.2 clearly indicates this trend. While 37.4 percent of migrant households live in a luxurious house, the same figure is only 17.1 percent for non-migrant

household. On the other end of the spectrum, only 0.2 percent of emigrant households live in a Kutcha house, compared to 2.3 percent for non-migrant households.

Table 7.2: Type of House by Household Type, 2023

Household Type	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Luxurious	17.1	37.4	27.0	35.0	33.2	22.5
Very Good	36.4	41.1	42.3	38.9	39.3	38.0
Good	31.4	18.1	24.4	18.9	20.1	27.8
Poor	12.8	3.3	5.7	6.2	7.2	10.1
Kutcha	2.3	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

The majority of the emigrant households hold a blue (39.4 percent) or a white (38.3 percent) ration card (Table 7.3). The percentage of white ratio card is high for return emigrant (30.5 percent), out migrant (46.1 percent) and return out migrant (51.3 percent) households as well. The possession of pink ration cards is highest among non-migrant households at 40.5 percent. Essentially, 48.3 percent of non-migrant households hold a Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration card as compared to 22.2 percent for emigrant households, 33.6 percent for return emigrant households, 27 percent for out migrant households and 23.8 percent for return out migrant households.

Table 7.3: Colour of Ration Card by Household Type, 2023

Ration card colour	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Yellow	7.8	2.4	2.6	4.4	2.6	6.1
Pink	40.5	19.8	31.0	22.6	21.2	35.1
Blue	24.9	39.4	35.9	27.0	24.9	28.7
White	26.7	38.3	30.5	46.1	51.3	30.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The type of cooking fuel used is an indicator for the health of the household members, especially women and children. This is because solid fuels in households are associated with pneumonia and other acute lower respiratory diseases. LPG (93.1 percent) and wood (71.8 percent) are the predominant sources of cooking fuel in Kerala followed by electricity (14.5 percent) and kerosene (2.6 percent). Across the different types of households given in Table 7.4, a large percentage relies on wood for cooking fuel possibly due to the abundance of wood in Kerala. Wood also serves as cheap supplement to LPG, especially in view of the rising prices of the latter. However, LPG continues to be the predominant cooking fuel used by all types of households, although the proportion is the lowest for non-migrant households at 91.4 percent.

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Table 7.4: Type of Cooking Fuel used by Migration Type, 2023

Cooking fuel	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Wood	71.5	72.6	74.9	66.4	62.3	71.8
Electricity	13.0	20.7	13.4	19.3	15.1	14.5
Kerosene	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.5	0.5	2.6
LPG	91.4	96.3	96.5	95.8	96.6	93.1
Others	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.5 captures the distribution of various lighting sources across households with various migration statuses. The data suggests that electrification has reached all the households without a significant variation across household type. 99.2 percent of the households in Kerala are electrified. Only 2.3 percent of households use kerosene for lighting and 1.7 percent use solar.

Table 7.5: Source of Lighting by HH Type, 2023

Lighting source	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Electricity	99.1	99.4	99.5	99.1	99.8	99.2
Kerosene	2.9	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.5	2.3
Solar	1.5	2.3	1.8	2.7	3.4	1.7
Other oils	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.6: Primary Source of Drinking Water, 2023

Primary source of drinking water	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Piped into dwelling	26.4	26.6	25.0	27.7	29.1	26.4
Piped into plot/yard	9.8	6.4	7.7	8.1	7.9	8.9
Own hand pump/own well	48.1	59.1	59.2	53.4	51.9	51.5
Community tap/community tank/ community hand pump/community well	12.6	5.7	6.4	7.8	7.2	10.5
Tanker truck	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.3
Surface water (stream/river/dam/ lake/pond/irrigation channel/ canal)	1.4	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.5	1.2
Packaged drinking water	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
Others	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	2.0	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7.6 captures the primary source of drinking water across different types of households. There are no significant variations across migrant and non-migrant households, except for

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community tap /tank /hand pump /well which are relied on by 12.6 percent of non-migrants when compared to 5.7 percent for emigrant households.

Table 7.7: Number of Functional Toilets by HH Type, 2023

Functional toilets	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
One	43.9	16.6	23.7	24.7	23.7	36.0
Two	37.7	42.5	46.5	43.1	43.3	39.9
Three	13.3	27.8	21.9	20.5	22.3	17.1
More than three	4.7	13.1	7.9	11.7	9.9	6.8
Zero	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7.7 provides indicators of functional toilet facilities across various migrant and non-migrant households. It can be seen that the majority of non- migrant households have only one (43.9 percent) or two (37.7 percent) toilets. The general picture across all the different types of migrant households seems to be similar with most of them having two toilets. it should also be noted that migrant households demonstrate a higher percentage, having three and more than three toilets.

Table 7.8: Type of House Ownership by HH Type, 2023

House ownership status	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Own	94.4	98.0	96.3	98.2	95.7	95.3
Rented	4.0	1.7	3.1	1.6	3.6	3.5
Leased	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4
Quarters	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Others	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The own house ownership is high across all households, with migrant households being slightly higher than non-migrant households. It should be noted that emigrant and out migrant houses have the highest percentage of own house ownership. Inversely, rented houses are higher among return migrants, return out migrants and non-migrants and lower among emigrants and out migrants, indicating the role that active remittances can have on house ownership. (Table 7.8)

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Table 7.9: Total Land in Cents by HH Type, 2023

Total land owned in Cents	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
<10	61.8	43.6	51.5	41.7	46.3	56.7
10-50	28.7	44.3	38.9	42.0	40.2	33.1
50-100	4.8	5.9	5.4	7.8	7.0	5.2
100-500	3.6	4.5	2.8	7.1	5.4	3.8
>500	0.6	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	0.8
Not Reported	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7.9 illustrates land ownership across different household types, showing that non-migrant households predominantly own less than 10 cents of land (61.8 percent). In contrast, emigrant and out migrant households have a more balanced distribution, with significant portions owning 10-50 cents (44.3 percent and 42.0 percent respectively). Return emigrant and return out migrant households also exhibit notable ownership in the 10-50 cent range (38.9 percent and 40.2 percent respectively). Ownership of more than 500 cents is minimal across all groups.

Table 7.10: Awareness of NORKA Programs and Schemes by HH Type, 2023

NORKA Programs	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Certificate Attestation	7.4	26.3	23.1	16.1	16.9	12.9
Pre–Departure Orientation Programme	4.4	18.5	13.6	9.5	12.9	8.1
"Skill Up-gradation Programmes"	4.9	19.1	13.8	9.5	11.7	8.6
Job Portal for facilitating overseas recruitment	5.6	21.0	14.9	12.0	11.5	9.5
"Reintegration Schemes (eg: Pearl, Mega, Micro)"	4.6	17.4	12.8	9.0	9.5	7.9
"Distress relief Scheme (Santhwana, Karunyam etc)"	5.1	19.1	15.0	10.2	11.1	8.9
NRK ID Card (Pravasi ID Card)	7.5	29.7	26.1	12.9	15.6	13.7
NRK Insurance Card (Pravasi Raksha Insurance)	6.2	25.8	19.5	10.2	16.3	11.4

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Table 7.10 highlights varying levels of awareness of NORKA programs among different household types. Emigrant households have the highest awareness, particularly regarding the NRK ID Card (29.7 percent) and certificate Attestation programs (26.3 percent). Return emigrant households also show significant awareness of these programs. Non-migrant households have the lowest awareness, with the NRK ID Card being the most recognized at 7.5 percent. Out migrant and return out migrant households have moderate levels of awareness,

mostly confined to job Portal and certificate attestation programs. Overall, awareness of programs like Reintegration Schemes and Distress Relief Schemes was relatively low across all household types.

Table 7.11: Comparisons of Current Levels of Household Income to pre–Covid 19 income, 2023

Household Income	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Increased	3.0	5.1	2.1	5.8	2.5	3.3
Decreased	41.9	37.9	52.8	32.2	41.3	42.3
Same as before	55.0	57.0	45.1	62.0	56.2	54.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7.11 shows household income changes compared to pre-COVID-19 levels across different household types. Most households reported unchanged income, especially out migrant (62.0 percent) and emigrant households (57.0 percent). Decreased incomes were high among return emigrant (52.8 percent) and non-migrant households (41.9 percent). Increased income was rare, with out migrant (5.8 percent) and emigrant households (5.1 percent) seeing the highest increases. These patterns highlight significant income stability for many, but notable declines for others, particularly return emigrant households.

Table 7.12: Reasons for the drop in the Income by HH Type, 2023

Reasons	Non-Migrant HH	Emigrant HH	Return Emigrant HH	Out migrant HH	Return Out migrant HH	Total
Loss of Employment	32.3	25.7	42.1	22.8	30.0	32.1
Salary Cut	13.9	19.4	20.1	14.0	15.8	15.6
Health Issues	12.9	8.8	14.8	11.1	12.9	12.4
Other Issues	1.6	1.2	2.2	2.5	2.0	1.7

Note: The total will not be 100 percent since many cases overlap

Out of 20,000 households, 8,459 households (42.3 percent) experienced a drop in income. The major reasons reported were loss of employment at 32.1 percent followed by Salary cut (15.6 percent) and Health issues (12.4 percent). (Table 7.12)

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Table 7.13: Median Levels of Income to the Household by HH Type, 2023

Household type	Monthly Income in Median Figure	Monthly Expenditure in Median Figure
Non-Migrant HH	15000.00	10000.00
Emigrant HH	30000.00	15500.00
Return Emigrant HH	20000.00	13000.00
Out migrant HH	25000.00	14000.00
Return Out migrant HH	25000.00	14000.00
Total	18000.00	11000.00

Table 7.13 presents the median monthly income and expenditure for various households. Emigrant households had the highest median income at ₹30,000, with corresponding expenditures of ₹15,500. Return emigrant households had a median income of ₹20,000 and expenditures of ₹13,000. Both out migrant and return out migrant households reported a median income of ₹25,000, with expenditures of ₹14,000 each. Non-migrant households had the lowest median income at ₹15,000 and expenditures at ₹10,000. Overall, the total median income across all household types was ₹18,000, with median expenditures at ₹11,000. These figures illustrated significant income and expenditure differences among migrant and non-migrant household types.

Appendix

1. Migration Estimates by Districts and Taluks in Kerala, 2023

	REM	EMI	ROM	OMI
Chirayinkeezhu	66781	43112	4043	2611
Nedumangad	33370	10585	2334	4749
Thiruvananthapuram	48042	29478	639	1533
Neyyattinkara	37502	24741	6566	6055
Thiruvananthapuram	185695	107917	13582	14948
Karunagappally	35022	32540	8527	12272
Kunnathur	12055	16583	5132	5783
Pathanapuram	19890	46447	3686	5826
Kottarakkara	37903	56979	10808	14488
Kollam	53610	43266	8416	9961
Kollam	158481	195815	36569	48330
Thiruvalla	11801	17698	6300	5257
Mallappally	6249	9706	1541	3251
Ranni	5804	17412	0	1451
Kozhencherry	10374	29287	4909	5584
Adoor	6693	27521	1012	9003
Pathanamthitta	40921	101624	13762	24546
Cherthala	13094	13118	10031	12617
Ambalappuzha	14029	24679	12558	6098
Kuttanad	7487	12364	1138	5796
Karthikappally	16217	33630	6638	5539
Chengannur	14962	12698	2370	3952
Mavelikkara	33705	37628	10198	8299
Alappuzha	99494	134116	42932	42301
Meenachil	14245	37065	6646	6694
Vaikom	11116	32193	7333	9033

Kottayam	28809	39964	17606	18061
Changanassery	12972	17667	2972	6737
Kanjirappally	7135	16935	2704	3559
Kottayam	74277	143824	37261	44084
Devikulam	0	860	0	1146
Udumbanchola	4268	13392	905	4520
Thodupuzha	8608	7875	2974	3096
Peerumedu	596	3177	596	1788
Idukki	13472	25304	4475	10550
Kunnathunad	18527	25176	4311	9649
Aluva	15447	27793	3198	4157
Paravur	13119	18023	7628	2101
Kochi	37019	30088	2599	5868
Kanayannur	50856	53572	32249	27523
Muvattupuzha	14118	18052	2210	1958
Kothamangalam	2763	14252	2499	2499
Ernakulam	151849	186956	54695	53756
Talappilly	43251	49767	17669	4739
Chavakkad	47007	54164	4992	7424
Thrissur	47810	35254	28376	15041
Kodungallur	40830	31440	3361	2475
Mukundapuram	60541	62552	12627	10193
Thrissur	239439	233177	67026	39874
Ottappalam	42791	73286	9312	18544
Mannarkad	12961	10250	1238	4102
Palakkad	17112	20314	14544	21943
Chittur	5230	7474	0	6611
Alathur	14595	12953	0	4401
Palakkad	92689	124277	25094	55601

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Ernad	52589	57359	828	2210
Nilambur	63696	42470	2231	744
Perinthalmanna	22964	48747	0	2302
Tirur	70058	109133	11873	8418
Tirurangadi	122933	80379	0	0
Ponnani	18936	39559	601	2626
Malappuram	351176	377647	15533	16300
Vadakara	64949	69148	4082	12094
Quilandy	64830	59882	7412	9844
Kozhikode	80509	64667	7551	22557
Kozhikode	210288	193697	19045	44496
Mananthavady	6657	9288	2445	4084
Sulthan Bathery	8060	15966	1408	8515
Vythiri	1792	7087	2567	6578
Wayanad	16509	32341	6420	19178
Taliparamba	27232	60164	5287	9746
Kannur	25248	58717	5425	9932
Thalassery	53927	93326	8395	23866
Kannur	106408	212208	19107	43544
Kasaragod	22243	47492	1217	6161
Hosdurg	27819	37881	571	8757
Kasaragod	50062	85372	1788	14918
Kerala	1790758	2154275	357289	472426

Organizational structure of Kerala Migration Survey 2023

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Prajula Rad P	Kavya.M.V	Adhithyan Ps	Nandana Gireesh
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Jishad	Muhammed Shafi P K	Tinu V Tom	Gokul V Nair
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Smitha P S	Premlatha M K	Alan M Mathew	Manu Raj J H
Muhammed Anfaas	Thomas Philip	Nijitha K S	Charles Thomas
Bhavya Mohan M	Anusree A S	Rashida C S	Donamol Jiji
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Sandeep Pu	Jishnu C	Abhijith Thomas	Farseeda K
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Shiji C J	Sameera R	Shabu A S	Mariyam Shaziya S
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Abishek Raj	Sree Lakshmi Pv	Sarun Kumar V C	Athira Pv
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Anoop K S	Deepu K Naveen	Athira Suresh	Athira Ramesh AK
Sheeba P R	Muhammed Ansif PC	Muhammad Juraid C	Sameera K
Kripa Jose	Anusree S R	Abel Mathews Alex	Leni Joychan
Pr Fida Fathima	Anu K K	Aswin Bin Bibi Raj	Aswin
Swarna Babu	Salna P K	Aswanth P	Vyshak M
Kavya Kalyan	Adithyan Ps	Suresh Vp	Aishwarya P R
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Parvathy M S	Libin P Thomas	Shamil M M	Selin Joby

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15.	2021	Kerala Return Emigrant Survey 2021: What Next for Return Migrants of Kerala? WP 504 (with Balasubramanyam Pattath)

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KEY INDICATORS - KMS 2023

1.	**Sample Households**	**20000**
2.	**Total Number of Households in Kerala**	**9694440**
3.	**Total Population of Kerala**	**35487611**
4.	**Number of Emigrants from Kerala**	**2154275**
5.	**Number of Return Emigrants**	**1790758**
6.	**Number of Non-Resident Keralites**	**3945033**
7.	**Number of Out-migrants**	**472426**
8.	**Number of Return Out-migrants**	**357289**
9.	**Number of Inter-state Migrants**	**829715**
10.	**International Student Migrants**	**250002**