

**Working Paper  
443**

**FROM KERALA TO KERALA VIA THE GULF  
EMIGRATION EXPERIENCES OF RETURN EMIGRANTS**

**K. C. Zachariah  
S. Irudaya Rajan**

March 2011

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## SUMMARY

This paper about return emigrants in Kerala is based on information on return emigrants collected by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) through several of its recent large-scale household surveys. The term 'return emigrants' is used here to mean Kerala-born persons, who have lived outside India for a minimum of 12 months or worked/studied outside for shorter periods.

In recent years, return emigrants have become a demographically, politically and economically significant component of Kerala's population.

At present

- one out of every 29 persons in Kerala
- one out of every 22 adult population of Kerala (15+)
- one out of every 19 working age population of Kerala (15-59 years)
- one out of every 9 working age male population of Kerala are return emigrants.

This report is about this important section of Kerala's population. It therefore has significant bearings on every aspect of life in the state.

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At present, there are roughly over 1.3 million return emigrants in the state. Two years ago, KMS [Kerala Migration Survey] 2008 estimated that there were about 1.157 million return emigrants. Ten years earlier, KMS 1998 enumerated 7.4 lakhs return emigrants. The number of return emigrants is expected to increase to about 1.6 million by 2015.

Corresponding to every 100 households in Kerala, there are 16 return emigrants; 12 of them have at least one return emigrant. Some

(about 1.3 percent) households have more than one return emigrant. Thus, the number of Kerala households with a return emigrant is not as large as it is often reported to be. Not only that, the proportion of households with at least one return emigrant has remained constant over the years, although the number of return emigrants has increased quite considerably.

The geographic spread of return emigration follows that of emigration, as return emigration is a follow-up of emigration. Malappuram district has the largest number of emigrants (15.3 per cent); it has the largest number of return emigrants also (19.0 per cent). Trivandrum district is the second largest with respect to emigration and is also the second largest with respect to return emigration. The propensity to return is greater in Trivandrum than in Malappuram when we measure the return emigrants as a percentage of emigrants. On that basis, it appears that the preferred districts for resettlement of Kerala's return emigrants are (in order of importance) Trivandrum, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kollam and Ernakulam. Surprisingly, Ernakulam is only the fifth in order.

One unintended consequence of emigration and return emigration is the acceleration of urbanization in Kerala. Upon return from abroad, more rural emigrants prefer to settle down in urban areas as compared to the number of urban emigrants settling down in rural areas. Return emigrants as proportion of emigrants is 56 per cent in the urban areas, but only 50 per cent in the rural areas.

The largest number of emigrants from Kerala live in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), but the largest number of return emigrants is from Saudi Arabia. The average number of years of residence of return emigrants abroad is higher for emigrants to UAE than for emigrants to Saudi Arabia, which has one of the lowest averages. From this point view, the Gulf countries that are relatively more attractive for the Kerala emigrants are: Qatar, Bahrain, Oman (Muscat), UAE and Kuwait.

Muslims are disproportionately over-represented among the emigrants and return emigrants. Propensity to return is also highest among the Muslims. Return emigrants as a proportion of emigrants is about 56 per cent among the Muslims compared to just 47 per cent among the Hindus and Christians. Hindus and Christians do not return as frequently as the Muslims.

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The recent global financial crisis has had a major impact on the economic growth and employment opportunities in many countries where Kerala emigrants have been working. Some Kerala emigrants lost their jobs and were forced to remain unemployed abroad or to return home. A recent CDS study concluded that recession-related return emigration to Kerala is not as extensive as is often reported to be. Although about 173,000 (7.7 per cent) of the Kerala emigrants abroad returned home during the recession period, only a fraction of them returned due to recession-related reasons. Their number is unlikely to be more than 63,000. (Working Paper No. 432)

The propensity to return home during the recession period was higher among emigrants in the UAE than among those in Saudi Arabia and many other Gulf countries. It was higher among female emigrants than among male emigrants, higher among emigrants in the age group 15-19 years and in ages over 50 years than among the middle age groups; it was higher among emigrants with lower levels of education than among emigrants with degrees and other higher levels of education. The recession induced the return of the self-employed emigrants and those who were working as agricultural labourers more than those working in other employment sectors. Many of the emigrants who remained unemployed in the destination countries also returned.

Even in the peak of recession, when many of the emigrants were returning home some return emigrants who were already in Kerala, were

migrating back to the Gulf. Among the return emigrants enumerated in 2008 (KMS 2008), about 11.7 per cent went back as emigrants in the course of an eight-month period. The corresponding percentage of re-emigration among the return emigrants in 2007 (KMS 2007) is 13.6 for a two year period. A rough estimate would put re-emigration during the first 12 months after return at about 12 per cent. Re-emigration is thus a real option open to the Kerala return-emigrants to cope up with the stress caused by involuntary return emigration.

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Why and how did the Kerala return emigrants emigrate in the first place? A special study of return emigrants in 2008 indicated that about half the number of return emigrants from Kerala emigrated just to get a job - any job - as they were then unemployed in Kerala. Among the rest, insufficiency of income was the main reason for emigration for those with a job. They were compelled to emigrate because they needed to find resources to pay the dowry of children or relatives, build a house, purchase plot of land or a car or a motor cycle, and so on. In this matter, there was nothing special about Kerala emigrants - they were like any other migrant group.

Friends and relatives were the principal channel through which Kerala return emigrants originally got their information about emigration. Recruiting agents were also important. They were the second most common channel for information about emigration. The role of Government, state or central, is insignificant in this matter.

Not many prospective emigrants from Kerala underwent any pre-emigration counselling. This is one of the lacunas in the emigration process in Kerala. Grooming the prospective Kerala emigrants for their life and work abroad could have helped them avoid many of the problems that confronted them in the destination countries. Nevertheless, as much as 80 per cent of prospective emigrants had obtained an employment

visa before they left Indian shores. Out of this, 20 per cent had signed an employment contract before emigrating. This is commendable, but there is still room for improvement in many areas for the smooth emigration of the large number of the Kerala emigrants, many of whom have only a rudimentary level of education.

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What was the emigration experience of the return emigrants (who are back in Kerala now)? Most of them (84 per cent) have emigrated only once. They returned after living abroad on an average for 7.4 years. For those who had emigrated more than once, the average duration of residence abroad in the intermediate period is lower for the subsequent emigration episodes. The average declines steadily, to just 2 years for the sixth emigration episode.

One important aspect of emigration from Kerala is its relatively high cost. That is one reason for the reluctance of many emigrants to return home even if he/she loses his/her job abroad. They cannot return without earning enough money to cover the funds they had borrowed to meet the cost of emigration and for buying a ticket back home. In 2008, the average cost of emigration was Rs. 57,000 for the emigrants and Rs. 47,000 for the return emigrants. The difference could be explained in terms of increasing trend in the cost. The most expensive part of the cost is of getting a visa which is more than 50 per cent of the total cost. Air-ticket costs about 25 per cent of the total cost. Together with payment to recruiting agencies, the total costs of these three items exceed 90 per cent of the total cost of emigration.

Most return emigrants depended on personal savings, loans from friends and relatives, and loan obtained by pledging gold ornaments of family members to meet the cost of emigration. Very few got financial assistance either from the Government or from the banks. Mortgaging lands or houses to raise money for emigration is not very common in Kerala.

It is often reported that Kerala emigrants experienced various kinds of problems on arrival at their destination countries. But the CDS studies included in this paper (which is based on the experience of return emigrants only) do not support this conclusion. It is true that some emigrants faced problems, but according to this study, this is not as widespread as is often reported to be. Perhaps those emigrants with problems have not returned and/or the return emigrants in Kerala are not a representative sample of the emigrants abroad.

On arrival in the destination country, very few return emigrants had any major problems with passport, visa, work-permit or employment contract. Most were received by their relatives (37 per cent) or employer (32 per cent) or friends (23 per cent). A few were met even by the Indian Embassy staff. However, about one-fourth of the return emigrants reported that they did not get the job they were offered at the time of their recruitment before they emigrated. This is a persistent problem that would have to be looked into by official agencies.

The most unpleasant part of the emigrant's induction to their new country is that 70 per cent of them were not allowed to keep their passport with them.

Conditions of work at the destinations were agreeable for 75 per cent of the return emigrants. Nearly half the number of return emigrants got free accommodation. Accommodation was subsidised or moderately priced for another 25 per cent. However, about one-fourth of the return emigrants were not provided with any accommodation and nearly three-fourths of them were required to share their accommodation with others. Those who got accommodation (82 per cent) were, on the whole, satisfied with its quality.

About a fifth (21.6 per cent) of the return emigrants were provided with free food, but nearly half of them (47.3) were not. Others (24.4 per cent) got food at subsidised or moderate prices. Most of them felt that the quality of the food they got was good.

Ninety-five per cent of the return emigrants were not accompanied by their spouses. The average monthly income of the return emigrants abroad was about Rs 10,000. However, some (11 per cent) had no income at all because they did not get any employment after reaching the country of destination, while there were a few with monthly income exceeding Rs 100,000. An average monthly income abroad of Rs.10,000 compares very favourably with the average monthly income back home before emigration (Rs. 1,800).

The expenses of the return emigrants (Rs. 3,286) while abroad were very much within their income. They could make a net saving of Rs. 6,725 per month while working abroad. Thus, an average return emigrant had to work for a minimum of nine months to earn the money needed to meet the cost of emigration and to pay back the debt incurred for this purpose.

Return emigrants were sending home Rs. 4,083 on an average as monthly remittance from their savings, and retained the balance of Rs 2,331 for other expenses.

While the return emigrant was abroad, his/her household was managed by his/her parents (in 53 to 59 per cent of the cases) or by his/her spouse (in 36 to 43 per cent of the cases). Similarly, money was sent home as remittances either to the parents (by 47 to 53 percent) or to spouse (by 39 to 45 per cent).

Most of the return emigrants (70 per cent) sent the remittances from their destination countries when they were emigrants there through banks. Mail transfer and friends/ relatives were the other means of sending remittances home.

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Of particular importance in this study is the impact of emigration on the return emigrants. How do their characteristics before emigration

compare with those after their return? How much have the characteristics of return emigrants changed as a result of emigration?

Some characteristics such as sex, religion or year of birth do not change with emigration or under any other normal circumstance. They are relatively fixed characteristics. But most others could change. Return emigrants are typically males, married, and relatively older. As much as 85 per cent of the return emigrants are male. However, the propensity to return is higher among the females.

Age does change the decision about whether one migrates or not, but the change is predictable. At the time of their first emigration, the emigrants, with an average age of 25 years, were quite young. At the destinations, emigrants as a group had an average age of 33 years. When they returned and became return emigrants, they were much older with an average age of 45 years.

The propensity to return home among the emigrants increases steadily with age. Although the total number of return emigrants is only about half the total number of emigrants, the number of return emigrants who are 50 years or older is larger than the number of emigrants in these ages, 1.45 times larger at ages 50-54, 2.3 times larger at ages 55-59, and so on.

The majority of the Kerala emigrants were unmarried at the time of their first emigration, but by the time they returned, most of them were married. The change from unmarried status to married status would have taken place whether they had emigrated or not. Emigration played only a minor role in this matter.

The levels of education before emigration of return emigrants was relatively low: 3.4 per cent had not attended school at all; 9.7 had not completed primary level education; 23.5 had not gone on to secondary level classes, and 67.6 per cent had not completed secondary level education. Only 7.1 per cent of them were educated to the degree or

graduate level. Nevertheless, they were better educated than the general population of the state who did not emigrate, the average year of schooling being 9.1 years for return emigrants compared with only 7.6 for the general population. However, emigrants at the destination countries who chose to stay there were better educated than those who returned. The average number of years of schooling of the emigrants who remained abroad was 10.1.

The number of return emigrants who studied only up to the primary level (passed or failed) exceeded the number of emigrants at corresponding levels of education. However, only 30 per cent of emigrants with a degree chose to return. Few emigrants with higher levels of education have returned.

There is not much change in the level of formal education after departure of emigrants from Kerala. However, one positive aspect of emigration is that emigrants and return emigrants have acquired several skills while working abroad. These include various kinds of technical skills, marketing skills, managerial/supervisory skills, financial management skills and the like. Such skills-augmentation among the return emigrants is actually as important as remittances for Kerala's development programmes. Regrettably, few return emigrants seem to be actually using the skills they had acquired abroad.

Most of the return emigrants in Kerala households were earning members of their household even before their first emigration. They constituted about 40 per cent, were heads of the households. Another 44 per cent were earning dependents. Only one fifth of them were non-earning dependents.

Before emigration, majority (nearly 39 per cent) of the return emigrants were working as labourers in the non-agricultural sector. About 16 per cent were working in the private sector. 15 per cent were self-employed. These three categories accounted for 70 per cent of the return emigrants. In addition, about 12 per cent were unemployed.

After their return from abroad, there were changes in their sectors of employment. The major differences are noticed in three sectors: non-agricultural labour, self employment and private sector. The percentage of return emigrants employed in the private sector decreased from 15.7 per cent to 9.7 per cent, that in the non-agricultural labour sector from 39.1 per cent to 28.0 per cent and that of unemployed, from 11.8 to 6.3 percent. These decreases were compensated mainly by increases in self employment from 14.5 per cent to 22.9 per cent and in the “not in labour force” category from 12.1 per cent to 22.8 per cent. Quite a good chunk of the return emigrants ceased to be a part of the labour force after their return.

A large proportion (24.3 per cent) of the prospective emigrants from Kerala had no income at all at the time of emigration. On the other hand, there were a few with annual income exceeding Rs. 50,000. The average annual income of prospective emigrants from Kerala was Rs. 21,847, which was less than half the average cost of emigration from Kerala.

When they returned, as much as 44 per cent of the return emigrants had to use part of their savings to pay back the debts they had incurred to meet the cost of their emigration. More than 40 per cent of return emigrants invested their savings in the education of children and/or medical treatment of family members. About one-third of them invested in construction. Nearly the same proportion had used part of their savings for meeting marriage expenses of their dependants. They deposited the rest of their savings in commercial banks as cash and/or in the purchase of gold jewellery. Investments in stocks, shares, mutual funds or in new enterprises did not find much favour with many. The reason could be lack of faith in these avenues of investment or lack of awareness about them.

Return emigrants, after their return to Kerala, shift from their original categories of employment to new ones. Among the return emigrants identified in 2007, the proportion of self-employed persons increased from 19.3 in 2007 to 24.9 in 2009. The proportion employed as labourers in non-agriculture decreased from 30.3 per cent to 17.4 per cent.

A similar pattern is observed among the 2008 return emigrants. Among them, the proportion self-employed persons increased from 14.6 in 2008 to 23.0 in 2009. The proportion employed as labourers in non-agriculture decreased from 39.3 per cent to 22.7 per cent.

A very noteworthy change is that the proportion of unemployed among the return emigrants **decreased** from 17.1 per cent in 2007 to just 1.8 per cent in 2009. Over a period of about 2 years, almost all return emigrants were able to find employment. A similar trend is observed among the return emigrants of 2008. In their case, the percentage unemployed decreased from 11.8 in 2008 to 3.2 in 2009. This is a very important trend that needs to be noted by policy makers in Kerala. Even in the absence of any rehabilitation programme on the part of the Government, most of the return emigrants who wanted a job were able to get one within a period of one or two years.

Most of the unemployed return emigrants (33 per cent) become self-employed. It meant that they were able to start some business activity of their own. Another 20 per cent found private sector employment. However, Kerala's return emigrants had not set up many business establishments on their own. The 2,037 return emigrants established just 78 enterprises of which about 38-39 percent were trading establishments.

Investments in these establishments were not very large by any measure. Thirty-three of the 78 establishments had a capital investment of Rs. 1 lakh or less. Only seven establishments had investment of more

than 10 lakhs. The average annual turnover of these establishments was Rs. 241,000 and the annual profit was Rs. 85,000.

On the whole, the investment activity of the return emigrants was minimal. Very few had tried to start any kind of economic activity. Those who did try were not very successful. Other than a few trading shops, taxi services or agricultural processing establishments, the return emigrants of Kerala did not get involved in any sort of investment activity. Most were satisfied with investing their accumulated savings in fixed deposits in commercial banks. Even stocks or shares were not much of an option for them. Kerala's return emigrants are on the whole, content with what they have earned abroad and try to keep it very safely.

As mentioned above, the priority for return emigrants was paying off the debt they had incurred in connection with their emigration. Whatever savings that remained was used for the education of their children, payment of dowry, medical needs of their family members, and buying/building/improving a house for themselves. They also used part of their savings to acquire household consumer goods. As a result, the proportion of households owning modern consumer durables is higher among return emigrants compared to the various migrant groups: emigrants, return out-migrants, out-migrants and non-migrants.

Housing is one area where the impact of return emigration is most evident. While about 27 per cent of the households without a migrant own a "luxurious" or "very good" house, 54 per cent of the households with just one return emigrant own such houses. The proportion of households owning "luxurious" or "very good" houses increases steadily with the number of return emigrants in the household. This gives a clear indication of the positive impact of emigration on housing quality.

A similar pattern exists with respect to fuel used for cooking. While about 35 per cent of the households that did not have a return emigrant use LPG for cooking, 41.3 per cent of the households with one

return emigrant use LPG for cooking. The proportion increases steadily with the number of return emigrants in the household to 75 per cent in households with three return emigrants.

The pattern is somewhat different with respect to ownership of land. While households with more than one return emigrant possess, on an average, more land than those without any migrant, such a relationship does not hold for households with just one return emigrant. This could be explained in terms of the relatively low economic status of some of the return emigrant households before emigration.

### **Conclusions**

Return emigrants in Kerala are not a representative sample of the Kerala emigrants abroad. They are negatively selected at the top of the socio-economic hierarchy and positively selected at the bottom. Well-educated emigrants, who are professionally well-placed in society and possess management and entrepreneur skills, do not return. They have too much stake abroad and the Kerala scenario does not seem to be attractive enough to lure them back.

Return emigrants are positively selected from among the “failed” emigrants at the bottom of the hierarchy. The failed emigrants do not have the resources even to buy a ticket to return. Further, the legal issues related to emigration and work permits prevent some of them from coming out into the open and returning home.

Such biases in the “sample” of return emigrants in Kerala could have influenced some of the conclusions in this report.

One of the conclusions reported here is that Kerala emigrants do not experience any major problems either in Kerala before they emigrate or in the host country on arrival there or later. This conclusion is somewhat at variance with the reports we get from other sources. One reason for this difference could be the positive selectivity at the bottom.

The reported number of return emigrants in Kerala does not include many emigrants who had experienced problems here or abroad. The emigrant's life abroad could be worse than the picture presented in this report. Their problems need official attention and amelioration.

Second, the return emigrant's contribution to the development of the state has fallen below expectations, considering the resources at their disposal. The reason could be the negative selection at the top. Return emigrants in Kerala do not include the more successful among the Kerala emigrants abroad. The negative selection at the top is a limiting factor in what the emigrants could have contributed to the economic and social development of the state. With the financial resources at their disposal, the skills and disciplined work culture they had acquired, and the contacts they had established, it is expected that Kerala emigrants could make a more significant contribution to the state's development. However, they have not risen to the challenge or risen to the occasion and this is mainly due to the absence of top level entrepreneurial skills among the return emigrants.

Some policy measures are suggested as remedies, at least partially, for these problems.

**First**, the development of a more comprehensive pre-emigration counselling and skills up-gradation programme for prospective emigrants could prevent many of the problems which they face here and abroad. Pre-departure counselling should include familiarising the prospective emigrants with living and working conditions abroad, acquainting them with the problems that they are likely to face when abroad and the ways and means of dealing with such issues. Programmes for skill up-gradation and for imparting multiple skills would also come in very handy to open up alternate job opportunities for the emigrants when faced with situations like the recent global recession. An important component of the pre-emigration counselling should be to prepare the emigrants for their eventual return to the state. Return emigrants of

Kerala today would have been a much happier lot, had they been given proper counselling about life after emigration. Counselling on financial management with a long-term perspective could have been very useful for them when they face the prospect of their long life as a return emigrant without a regular monthly income. Prevention is better than cure. Problem preventing measures aimed at future emigrants would work better than problem solving measures aimed at return emigrants.

**Second,** the cost of emigration is very high and increasing in Kerala in relation to the annual income of prospective emigrants before emigration. The Government should intervene wherever possible to check the spiralling increase in the cost of emigration and take measures to prevent recruiting agents and other intermediaries from exploiting the poorly educated and financially deprived prospective emigrants of Kerala. Financial support by way of loans could be very helpful for some of the aspirants.

**Third,** with some intervention by Government, the resources that the return emigrants bring in could be used more effectively for the development of the state. In the absence of the top layer managers and entrepreneurs among the return emigrants, leadership and direction from within the state – by Government and business leaders – could help to fully unleash the potential of the return emigrants in the state. Alternately or simultaneously, top layer managers and entrepreneurs from among the migrants abroad should be persuaded through adequate incentives to establish development projects within the state, utilizing the resources brought in by them and other return emigrants.

## Introduction

Migration begets migration; emigration begets return emigration. The greater the extent of emigration, the greater would be the extent of return emigration. Return emigration is a necessary follow-up of the emigration process. This is particularly true of Gulf migration where almost all emigrations are of short duration. Ninety per cent of Kerala emigrants go to Gulf countries; they go on a contract basis for a few years, most of them leaving behind their families *in Kerala* and return to Kerala when the period of the job contract is over or when they feel that their immediate financial needs have been taken care of. Over the past few decades, return emigrants have become a significant component of Kerala's population. They are everywhere in the state. **Return emigrants are significant demographically, economically, culturally and politically.**

In 2008, return-emigrants were:

- one out of every 29 persons in Kerala
- one out of every 22 adult population of Kerala (15+)
- one out of every 19 working age population of Kerala (15-59 years)
- one out of every 9 working age male population of Kerala

This report is about this important component of Kerala's population. It therefore has a significant bearing on every aspect of life in Kerala.

The report makes use of several of CDS studies on return emigration. They include:

1. KMS [Kerala Migration Survey] 2008
2. Special study of RMS [Return Migration Survey] conducted along with KMS 2008
3. RMS 2009, a special study of recession-induced return emigrations

Part I gives the main dimensions of return emigration in Kerala - size, growth, geographic distribution and religious composition. Discussions are at the state-level using state-level estimates derived from the sample data of fourth KMS (2008). The sample figures are appropriately amplified to the state level, district level, etc., taking into consideration the sampling design used in KMS 2008.

Part II gives the results of a special enquiry on return emigrants conducted along with the 2008 KMS survey. In this part, discussions are at sample level. The sample statistics are not amplified to state level, as the tools used in the analysis are mainly ratios and percentage distributions. The main interest here is about the structure of return emigration.

Part III deals with the problems of the recent return emigrants in Kerala. They had returned home during the recent global financial crisis which affected most countries in the world, including those in the Gulf region. The data for this section of the report are from another special survey conducted after the recent recession period during June-September 2009. It also provides a short recapitulation of the basic results relevant for the preparation of a set of policies to deal with the problems of return emigrants in Kerala, especially with regard to those who returned as a result of the global financial crisis.

## **PART I**

### **DYNAMICS OF RETURN EMIGRATION IN KERALA**

#### **Sources of Information on Return Emigrants**

During the last decade, CDS has carried out several sample surveys to collect information on return emigrants in Kerala. Most of the information from them is used in this report. The sample surveys carried out are listed below.

#### **CDS Migration Monitoring Studies**

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) conducts periodic surveys to monitor the current status of emigration and return emigration in the state of Kerala. So far, four such surveys have been carried out - in 1998, 2003, 2007 and 2008. Analytical research reports based on the first three rounds of migration surveys have already been published and are available in the public domain in the form of CDS working papers, journal articles and books. These reports constitute one of the few main sources of information related to emigration from Kerala. The present report on return emigration in Kerala is based on the surveys carried out in 1998, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2009.

#### **Special Studies of Return Emigrants**

Along with the KMSs, CDS made two special studies on REM [Return Migrants] in Kerala. The first was in 2001 using the first (1998) sample of households with at least one REM. The second was in 2008 using the sample of households with at least one REM in the fourth KMS 2008. (See to questionnaire in appendix I)

#### **Special Study on the Impact of Global Recession on Return Emigrants**

This study was undertaken by CDS at the request of NORKA, the nodal agency responsible for the welfare of Kerala emigrants and return

emigrants. The objective of this study, conducted during June-September, 2009, was to get background information needed to prepare policies to deal with the problems faced by the emigrants who lost their jobs abroad and returned to the state.

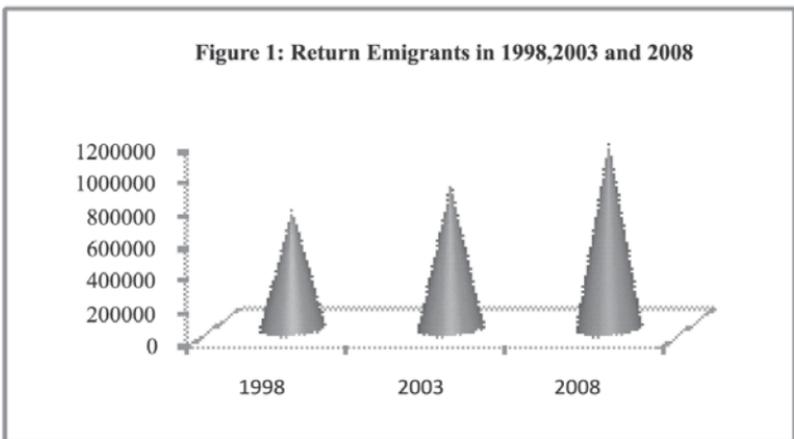
## **RETURN EMIGRANTS IN KERALA, 2008**

### **Number of Return Emigrants**

The principal sources of information on the level and trend of return emigration in Kerala are the Kerala Migration Surveys of 1998, 2003 and 2008. According to the most recent among them, there were 1.157 million return emigrants in Kerala in 2008. They had returned to Kerala after living abroad as emigrants for varying periods of time. Some of them had returned in 1970 or earlier; others came back during the period 2006-2008.

### **Trend in Return Emigration**

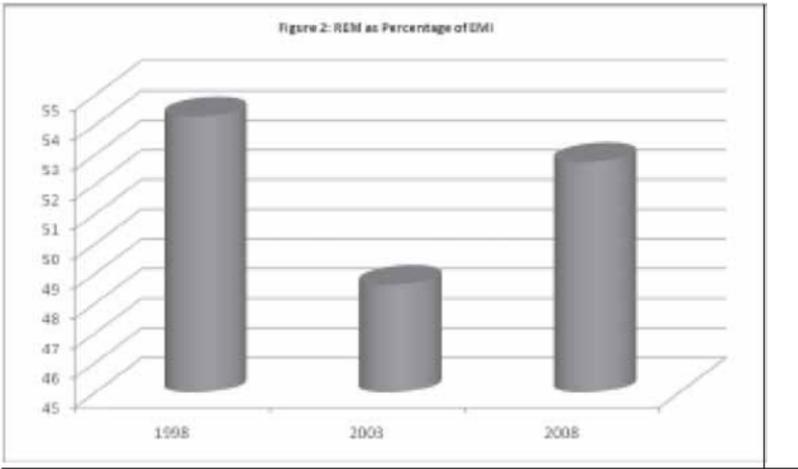
Ten years earlier, in 1998, the number of return emigrants was 7.4 lakhs. By 2003, the number had increased to 8.9 lakhs. These data indicate that, in recent years, the number of return emigrants has been steadily increasing. The increase was 1.6 lakhs in 1998-2003 and 2.6 lakhs in 2003-08 (Table 1).



**Table 1: Return Emigrants by Districts 1998, 2003 and 2008**

District	REM			Increase			REM per 100HHs		
	2008	2003	1998	2003-08	1998-03	1998-08	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	215280	103059	118878	112221	-15819	96402	24.9	13.2	18.1
Kollam	124066	69314	74106	54752	-4792	49960	18.4	11.4	13.2
Pathanamthitta	60554	83502	54537	-22948	28965	6017	18.7	27.7	18.5
Alappuzha	51024	43109	34572	7915	8537	16452	9.4	8.7	7.2
Kottayam	26448	28368	18164	-1920	10204	8284	5.4	6.4	4.6
Idukki	3213	3766	5017	-553	-1251	-1804	1.1	1.4	2.0
Ernakulam	68860	74435	45028	-5575	29407	23832	8.6	10.4	7.4
Thrissur	174655	86029	116788	88626	-30759	57867	23.9	13.1	18.6
Palakkad	85318	55008	39238	30310	15770	46080	14.4	10.1	7.4
Malappuram	219736	141537	123750	78199	17787	95986	35.1	23.5	20.5
Kozhikode	72405	109101	60910	-36696	48191	11495	11.0	18.6	11.5
Wayanad	1930	3852	3327	-1922	525	-1397	1.0	2.2	2.1
Kannur	26416	45394	28263	-18978	17131	-1847	5.0	9.7	6.1
Kasaragod	27222	47468	16667	-20246	30801	10555	10.5	20.3	8.2
Kerala	1157127	893942	739245	263185	154697	417882	15.3	13.0	11.6

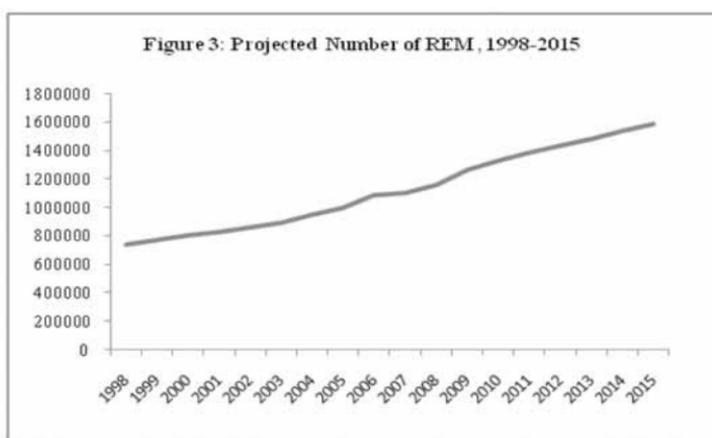
Emigration and return emigration are closely related in the sense that it is emigration which begets return emigration. The size of REM should therefore be closely related to the size of emigration with a lag of a few years (typically 7-8 years). However, this may not always be the case as is evident from Figure 2.



REM as a ratio of EMI in 2003 was lower than that in 1998 or in 2008. This shows that there are other factors such as global recession, national emigration policies, war and other political convulsions, etc., which determine the size of return emigration. Given the total number of emigrants, fewer returned in 2003 and relatively more of them returned in 2008. Even so, the number of emigrants abroad in a particular year roughly indicates the likely number of return emigrants after a period of 6-8 years.

### Short-term Projection of REM

The idea that future size of return emigration after a gap of seven years should approximately be related to the present size of emigrants can be used to make short-term projections of REM.



**Table 2: Projected numbers of Return Emigrants, 1998-2015**

Year	EMI	REM
1998	1361919	739245
1999	1457231	770184
2000	1552543	801124
2001	1647854	832063
2002	1743166	863003
2003	1838478	893942
2004	1909465	946579
2005	1980452	999216
2006	2051438	1089430
2007	2122425	1104490
2008	2193412	1157127
2009		1261571
2010		1330551
2011		1381926
2012		1433300
2013		1484675
2014		1536050
2015		1587425

Coefficient = 0.72372 (7 year lag)

The projection for the years 2009-2015 is given in Table 2. The estimates are based on the assumption that the number of return emigrants in a given year (for example, 2015) is a function of the number of emigrants 7 years earlier.

$$\text{REM (2015)} = a * \text{EMI (2008)}$$

where the parameter “a” is estimated from the data on emigrants and return emigrants in past years. In this case, “a” is estimated at 0.724, which is an average of such ratios for the years for which data are available.

### **Return Emigrants Per Household**

The ratio of return emigrants in an area to the number of households in that area is a good measure of the prevalence of return emigration in that area. Table 1 above indicates that in 2008, there were 15.3 return emigrants per 100 household. The corresponding ratio was 13.0 in 2003 and 11.6 in 1998. As in the case of the number of return emigrants, return emigration ratio increased consistently.

### **Households with and without REM**

Return emigration in Kerala is not as widespread as is often reported. In 2008, only about 12 per cent of the households in Kerala had a return emigrant. In spite of the increase in the absolute number of return emigrants, the relative proportion of Kerala households with a return emigrant has not changed at all.

### **Return Emigrants by Religion**

Religion is an important variable determining the propensity to emigrate. The propensity to return migrate is also determined by it.

About 56 per cent of Kerala’s population are Hindus, but only 34 per cent of the REMs are Hindus. On the other hand 25 per cent of the state’s population are Muslims, but 45 per cent of the REMs are Muslims. Christians are also slightly over-represented.

**Table 3: Return Emigrants by Religion, 2008**

Religion	REM	Percent	Per 100 HH	Per 100 EMI	Percent of HH with one or more	
					EMI	REM
Hindus	397638	34.4	8.0	47.5	12.4	7.2
Christians	243695	21.1	13.2	47.2	16.3	11.0
Muslims	515793	44.6	29.8	55.9	36.4	25.7
Total	1157127	100.0	13.6	50.9	18.0	11.8

The religious differentials are larger with respect to REM per household. The average for the state is 13.6 REM per 100 households, but the ratio is more than double that for the Muslims and only 8 per cent for the Hindus.

The propensity for an emigrant to return home is also highest among the Muslims. While 56 per cent of the emigrants among the Muslims returned back, they are only 47 per cent among the other two communities.

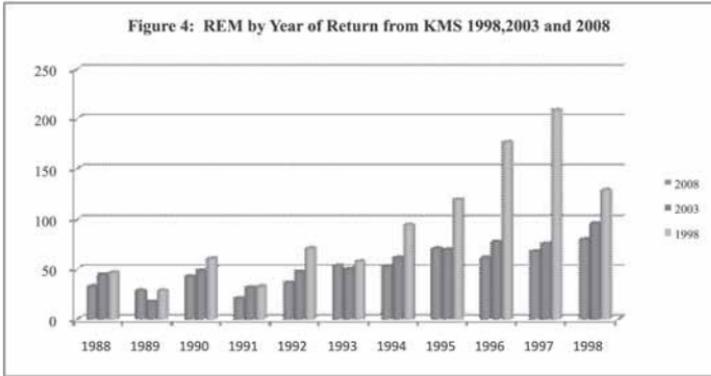
The percentage of households with a return emigrant varies considerably by religion. While about 26 per cent of the Muslim households have one or more return emigrants, only 7 per cent of the Hindu households have a return emigrant.

### **Return Emigrants by Year of Return**

1.157 million return emigrants were enumerated in 2008. All of them did not return in 2008. Most of them came back earlier. Figure 4 gives REM in 2008, 2003 and 1998 by year of return. The number of return emigrants increases with advancing years.

A comparison of the trend of REM by analysing the figures from KMS 1998, 2003 and 2008 indicates that the number of REM in 1998 (for a given year) is generally higher compared to that for 2003. For example, REM from KMS 1998 is 129, from KMS 2003 is 96 and from

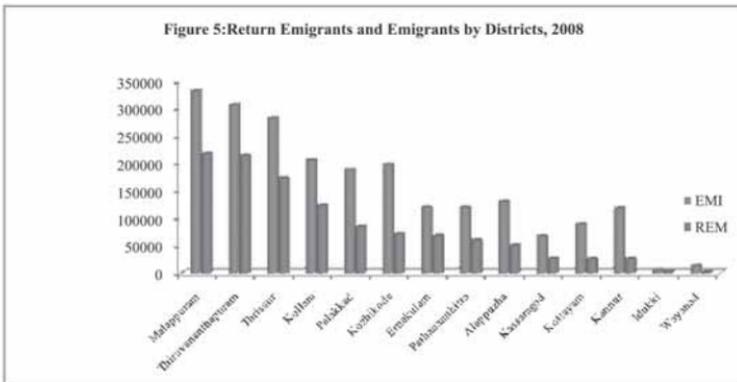
KMS 2008 is 80. Figure 4 gives data for the years 1988-2008 and shows that, for every year, the figure for the 1998 series is higher than that for the 2003 series, which in turn is higher than that for the 2008 series. The explanation for this could be that some REM enumerated in 1998 could have re-emigrated by 2003 and 2008. Re-emigration is thus very real.

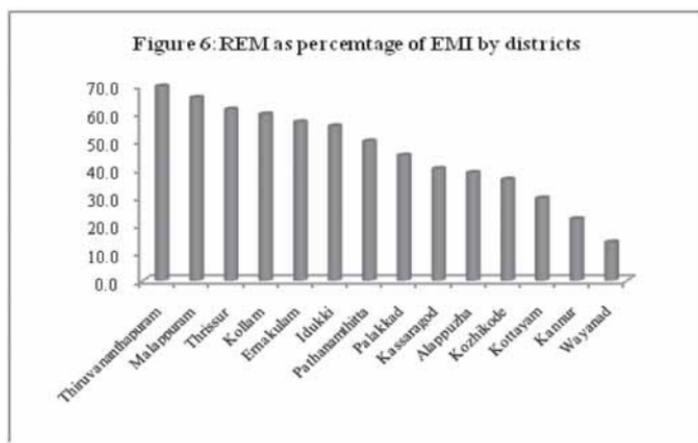


## Geographic Aspects of Return Emigrants

### District Level Analysis

Districts that send out more emigrants tend to receive more return emigrants. Thus Malappuram district had the largest number of emigrants in 2008; it also had the largest number of return emigrants. Wayanad and Idukki districts sent out few emigrants, and they had few return emigrants too. However, there are exceptions.





Return emigrants as percentage of emigrants is the highest in Thiruvananthapuram district, not in Malappuram district. Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kollam, Ernakulam and Idukki districts received more than their share of return emigrants and other districts received less.

### **Taluk Level Analysis**

Among the 63 taluks in the state, Thiruvananthapuram taluk received the largest number of return emigrants, that is, 84,000. Altogether 20 of the 63 taluks received more than 20,000 return emigrants each in 2008 (Table 4).

Return emigrants in two taluks were found to be more than the emigrants who originated from those taluks. For every 100 emigrants that Kochi taluk sent out, it had received 187 return emigrants. A similar situation is observed in Thodupuzha taluk also where corresponding to every 100 emigrants from the taluk, there were 140 return emigrants. A list of taluks where the ratio of REM to EMI is more than state average is given in Table 5.

**Table 4: Taluks with more than 20,000 Return Emigrants, 2008**

Taluks	REM
Thiruvananthapuram	84469
Kollam	68222
Chirayinkeezhu	61668
Tirur	61376
Ernad	59636
Ottapalam	49238
Thalappilly	45287
Thrissur	42140
Perunthanmanna	38866
Neyattinkara	37430
Kanayannur	36396
Kozhikode	35844
Chavakad	35262
Nedumangad	31714
Mukundapuram	28477
Kottarakara	27220
Vadakara	23585
Kodungalloor	23489
Thiruvalla	23268
Ponnani	22561

**Country of Origin of Return Emigrants (Gulf Region)**

While 88 per cent of the emigrants from Kerala went to one of the Gulf countries, as much as 95 per cent of the return emigrants came back from these countries. Emigrants from Kerala in the USA, Canada, UK, etc. have not returned. Most of them are settled there on a permanent basis.

About 42 per cent of Kerala emigrants live in the UAE, but only 31.5 of them returned from UAE. On the other hand, 23 per cent of the emigrants live in Saudi Arabia, but as much as 33.6 per cent of the return emigrants were from Saudi Arabia.

**Table 5: Taluks where REM as percent of EMI is more than the State (52.8 percent)**

Taluks	Rem as % of Emi	Taluks	Rem as % of Emi
Kochi	187.0	Ambalapuzha	68.0
Thodupuzha	140.0	Pathanapuram	67.7
Chittur	98.0	Kollam	67.3
Neyattinkara	94.6	Kothamangalam	66.7
Ottapalam	93.6	Aluva	66.0
Ernad	88.0	Thiruvananthapuram	64.1
Nilambur	81.7	Tirur	63.4
Nedumangad	81.0	Chirayinkeezhu	62.9
Chavakad	79.0	Manarkad	62.7
Thrissur	78.3	Cherthala	60.0
Kozhenchery	78.0	Mukundapuram	58.1
Ponnani	76.2	Meenachil	54.7
Moovattupuzha	72.1	Thalappilly	53.4
Karthikapally	70.6	Thiruvalla	52.9
Kanayannur	69.8		

Among the Gulf countries, the average ratio of REM to EMI is 52.3 per cent. However, it is as much as 82.4 per cent in Oman, but only 37.4 per cent in Qatar.

Saudi Arabia is not as attractive as the UAE for continuous residence for Kerala emigrants. The average years of residence of Kerala emigrants is much lower in Saudi Arabia than in the UAE. On the basis of this measure, countries that are attractive for the Kerala emigrants include the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, USA, South Africa and Malaysia.

**Table 6: Country of last Residence of Return Emigrants, 2008**

Countries	REM	EMI	Percentage		REM/100 EMI	Average Duration
			REM	EMI		
Bahrain	99	185	4.9	4.6	53.5	9.3
Kuwait	92	236	4.5	5.9	39.0	7.4
Malaysia	10	21	0.5	0.5	47.6	11.1
Oman	252	306	12.4	7.6	82.4	9.2
Qatar	83	222	4.1	5.5	37.4	9.4
Saudi Arabia	685	915	33.6	22.9	74.9	7.8
Singapore	16	21	0.8	0.5	76.2	12.8
UAE	641	1675	31.5	41.8	38.3	8.8
USA	7	187	0.3	4.7	3.7	16.6
South Africa	6	16	0.3	0.4	37.5	14.6
Other	146	405	7.2	10.1	36.0	9.6
Total	2037	4004	100.0	100.0	50.9	8.7

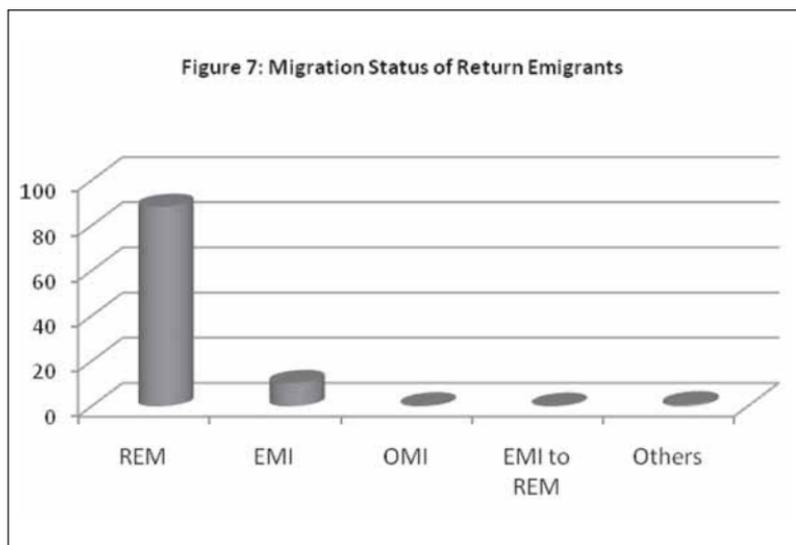
### Re-emigration among Return Emigrants

The number of (sample) return emigrants in KMS 2007 and KMS 2008 totalled 3,194. Of this, 2,821 remained as return emigrants, but 328 had re-emigrated. The remaining 45 had migrated to other states in India. They constitute a little over 11 per cent of the total.

Thus, most of the return emigrants - 86 per cent of the 2007 REM and 89 per cent of the 2008 REM - stayed back in Kerala. The average for the two groups is 88 per cent. However about 10 per cent of the REM re-emigrated and became emigrants once again. A very small proportion of the return emigrants tried their luck in other states in India. Thus, although for the majority of the emigrants, return to Kerala was the end of their migration episode, this was not the case for about 12 of them who went to other states in the country.

**Table 7: Current Migration status of the Return emigrants of 2007 and 2008**

Migration status	2007	2008	2007 & 2008
REM	1014	1807	2821
EMI	135	193	328
OMI	3	9	12
EMI to REM	2	4	6
OTHERS	19	8	27
TOTAL	1173	2021	3194
PERCENTAGE			
REM	86.4	89.4	88.3
EMI	11.5	9.5	10.3
OMI	0.3	0.4	0.4
EMI to REM	0.2	0.2	0.2
OTHERS	1.6	0.4	0.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0



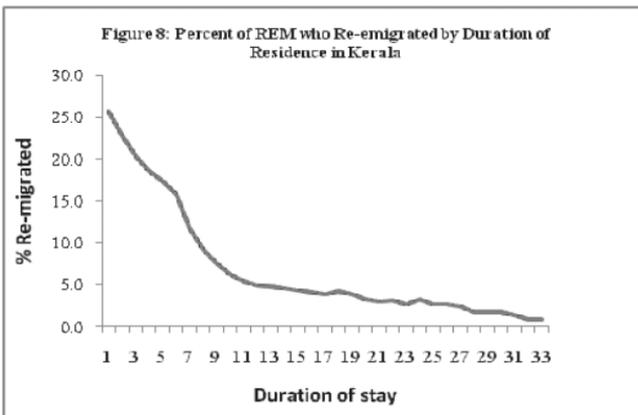
The percentage of return emigrants who re-emigrated was 11.5 per cent among the 2007 cohort and was 9.5 per cent among the 2008 cohort. The 2007 cohort took about 20 months to re-emigrate, but the 2008 cohort took only about 8 months. It is only natural that the percentage of return emigrants is higher for the 2007 cohort. Thus, the duration of residence in the home state is an important factor determining the degree of re-emigration.

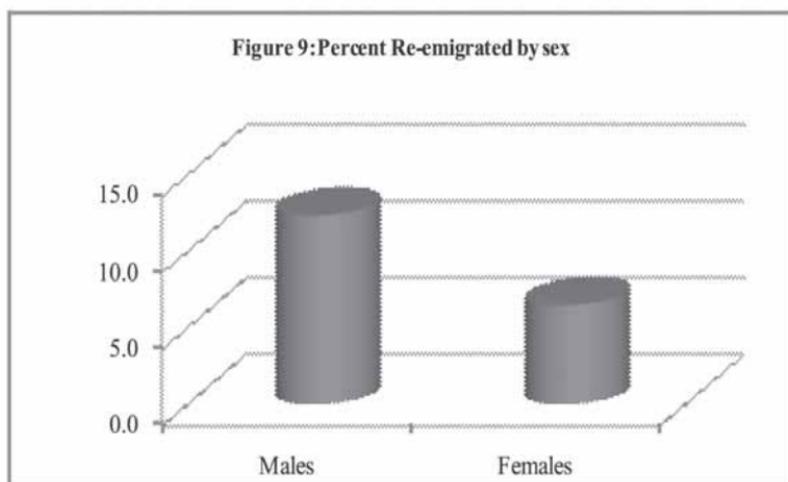
Who are the return emigrants who re-emigrated and who are those who stayed back in Kerala?

### **Re-Emigration among REM by Duration of Stay in Kerala as REM**

An important factor determining the propensity to re-emigrate is the duration of stay of the return migrant in Kerala after return. Many return migrants try to re-emigrate immediately after their return. If they fail in their attempts to emigrate for several years during which time they continue to stay in Kerala, their chances of re-emigration becomes relatively small.

Nearly a quarter of the return emigrants re-emigrate within the first year of return. On the other hand, very few of them re-emigrated after several years of stay back in Kerala. Most of those who want to re-emigrate do so during the first few years of return.



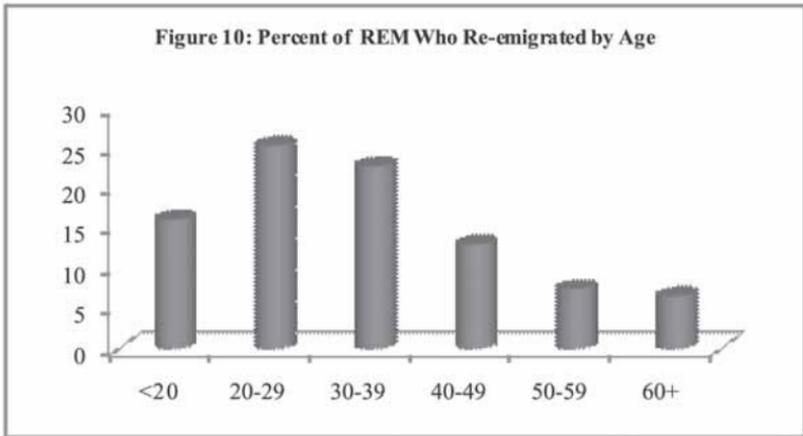


### Re-Emigration by Age and sex

The rate of re-emigration is influenced by the factors, sex and age. Return emigrants of all ages re-emigrated, but the rates varied. The highest rate of re-emigration was among the return emigrants who were 20-29 years old. The rate of re-emigration decreases steadily at higher ages. The rate of re-emigration among males is almost twice as much as that among females (Figure 9).

**Table 8: Percent of return emigrants who Re-emigrated, by age 2007**

Age	REM	Total	Percent Re-emigrate
<20	26	31	16.1
20-29	53	71	25.4
30-39	200	259	22.8
40-49	280	322	13.0
50-59	285	308	7.5
60+	170	182	6.6
Total	1014	1173	13.6



### **Re-emigration by Employment Status**

Return emigrants who re-emigrate belong to different employment statuses (employed, unemployed and not in labour force). However the rate of re-emigration is slightly higher among the unemployed and lower among those not in the labour force, though the differences are not very large. The variations could partly be due to differences in the distribution by duration of residence. The unemployed return emigrants have a relatively lower average duration of residence; while those not in the labour force have a relatively higher average duration of residence.

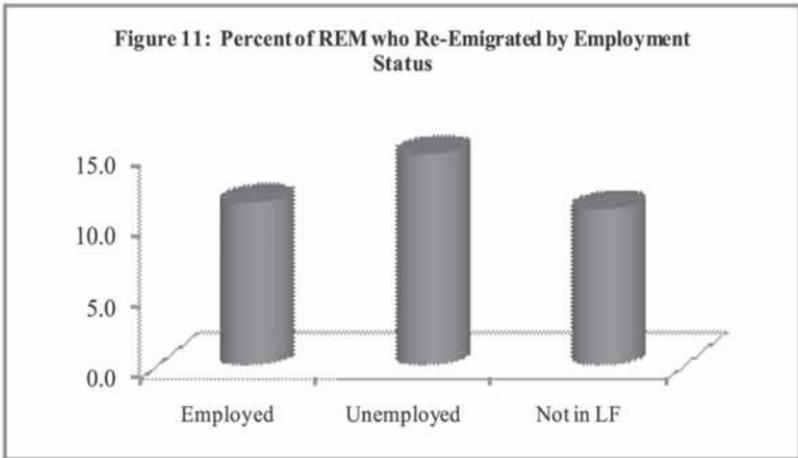
### **Re-emigration of REM by Sector of Employment**

The sectors in which the emigrants were employed before their return in the host country is an important indicator of their propensity to re-return to their host country.

Nearly fifty per cent of the emigrants were employed in the private sector before their return. They re-emigrated to their country of residence in the course of one or two years. Those who were unemployed abroad are another group of return emigrants who re-emigrated back in large numbers. A significant number of students and those engaged in non-agricultural labour (construction) also re-emigrated.

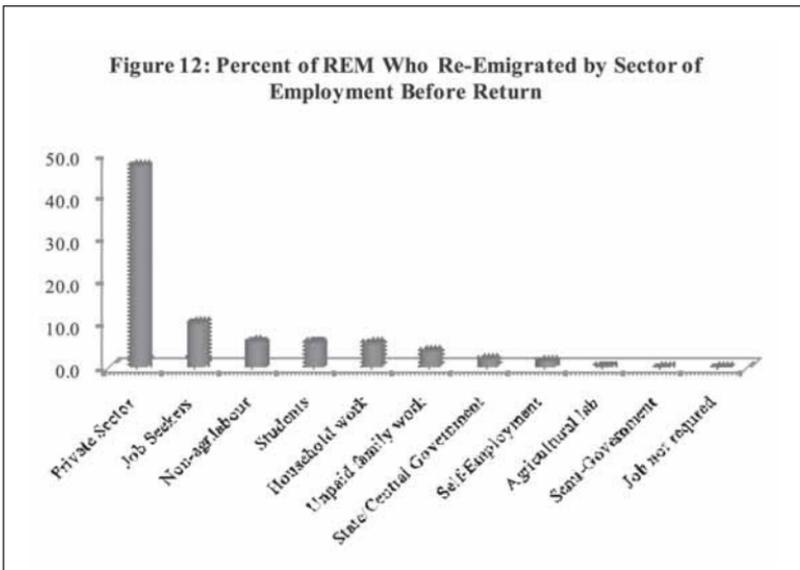
**Table 9: Employment status of Return Emigrants, 2007 and 2008**

Employment status	2007			2008			2007 and 2008		
	REM	Total	Percent	REM	Total	Percent	REM	Total	% Re-emigrate
Employed	668	771	13.4	1377	1538	10.5	2045	2309	11.4
Unemployed	172	200	14.0	201	238	15.5	373	438	14.8
Not in LF	174	202	13.9	224	245	8.6	398	447	11.0
Total	1014	1173	13.6	1802	2021	10.8	2816	3194	11.8



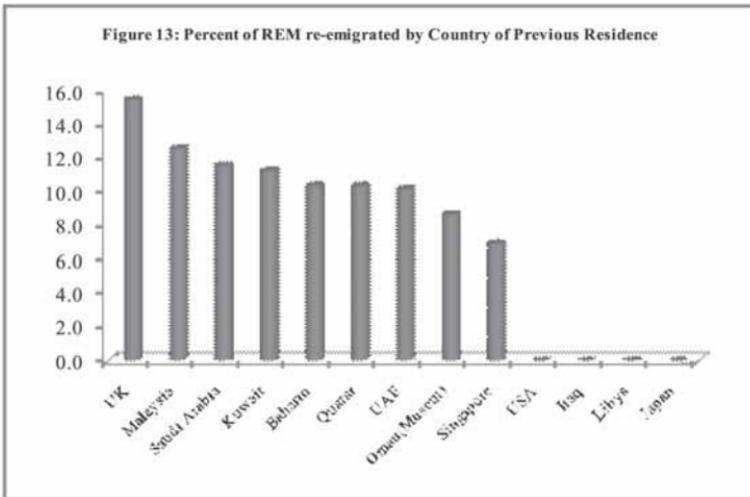
### Re-emigration of REM by Country of Previous Residence

The rate of re-emigration of return emigrants varies by country of their previous residence. The re-emigration rate is high for REMs who returned from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, etc. and is low for those from the USA, Libya, Iraq, Japan, etc. Returned emigrants from this latter group of countries do not generally go back.



**Table 10: Re-Emigration of Return Emigrants by sector of Employment before Emigration, 2007 and 2008**

Employment status	2008		2007		Percent Re-emigrated		2007&2008
	REM	Total	REM	Total	2007	2008	
	State/Central Government	26	26	24	25	0.0	
Semi-Government	12	12	7	7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private Sector	189	351	100	199	46.2	49.7	47.5
Self-Employment	459	464	285	292	1.1	2.4	1.6
Unpaid family work	21	21	4	5	0.0	20.0	3.8
Agricultural labour	142	142	102	103	0.0	1.0	0.4
Non-agriculture labour	431	458	190	204	5.9	6.9	6.2
Job Seekers	60	65	17	21	7.7	19.0	10.5
Job not required	30	30	14	14	0.0	0.0	0.0
Students	47	47	32	37	0.0	13.5	6.0
Household work	144	150	90	98	4.0	8.2	5.6
Pensioners	176	176	95	97	0.0	2.1	0.7
Total	1737	1942	960	1102	10.6	12.9	11.4



## Characteristics of Return Emigrants in Kerala

### Sex Composition

In Kerala, more men emigrate than women. As a result, men are also more numerous among the return emigrants. 14.6 per cent of males and 11.8 per cent of females among the emigrants returned.

**Table 11: Sex Composition of Return Emigrants, 2008**

Sex	REM	EMI	REM/ 100 EMI
Males	1796	3420	52.5
Females	241	584	41.3
Percent Females	11.8	14.6	

The pattern is different in countries like Sri Lanka, where there are more women than men among the emigrants and return emigrants.

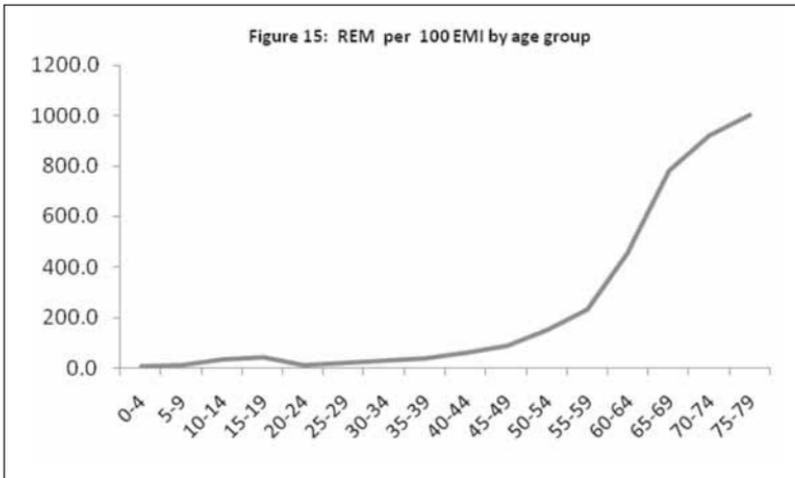
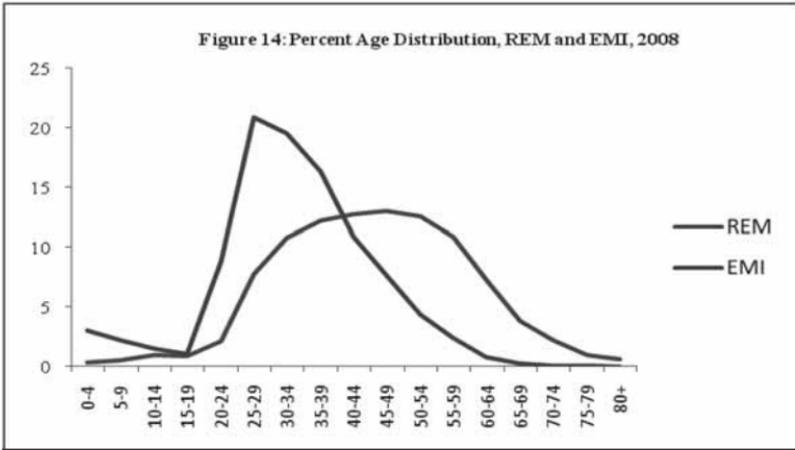
The propensity to return is also higher among men in Kerala. While male return emigrants represent about 52.5 per cent of male emigrants, female return emigrants are only 41.3 per cent of the female emigrants.

## Age Composition

Emigrants as well as return emigrants are fewer among the very young as well as among the very old. This is a common pattern found among both internal and external migration streams. Emigrants and return emigrants mostly belong to the 20-50 age-span. Between the two groups, the REMs are relatively older and have a more even spread in the middle age groups. On the other hand, the EMIs have a more concentrated age distribution with severe concentration in the 25-34 age-spans.

**Table 12: Age Composition of Return Emigrants and Emigrants in Kerala, 2008**

Age group	REM	EMI	REM/100EMI
0-4	7	122	5.7
5-9	10	90	11.1
10-14	19	60	31.7
15-19	18	44	40.9
20-24	43	352	12.2
25-29	158	836	18.9
30-34	220	783	28.1
35-39	250	655	38.2
40-44	260	435	59.8
45-49	266	306	86.9
50-54	257	174	147.7
55-59	222	97	228.9
60-64	150	33	454.5
65-69	78	10	780.0
70-74	46	5	920.0
75-79	20	2	1000.0
80+	13		
Total	2037	4004	50.9



However, the ratio of REM to EMI increases steadily with age. The increase is very sharp after the age of fifty. Increasing numbers of emigrants return home after attaining the age of 50 years.

### **Marital Status**

Most of the return emigrants (86 per cent) were married at the time of the survey. Only about 10 per cent were unmarried. This is in direct contrast with the pattern among the emigrants, among whom 61 per cent were unmarried.

**Table 13: Marital Status Composition of Return Emigrants and Emigrants in Kerala, 2008**

Marital status	REM	EMI	REM /100 EMI	REM	EMI
Unmarried	210	2422	8.7	10.3	60.5
Married	1760	1575	111.7	86.4	39.3
Others	67	7	957.1	3.3	0.2
Total	2037	4004	50.9	100	100

The propensity to return home is very much higher among the married emigrants. Relatively few of the unmarried emigrants return. While the proportion of return emigrants per 100 emigrants among the unmarried is only 9 per cent, that among the married is 112 per cent. This means that the number of married emigrants who returned home is 12 per cent greater than the number of unmarried emigrants.

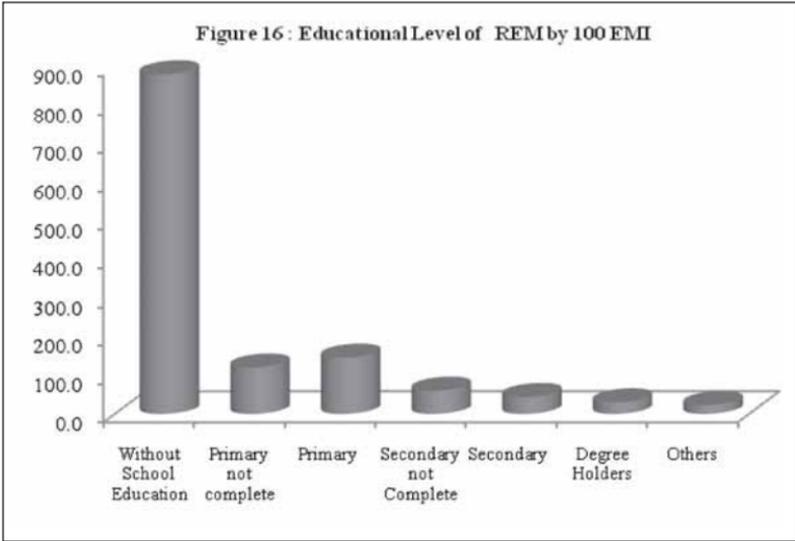
#### **Educational Attainment (after return)**

Return emigrants are about 52.8 per cent of the emigrants. However, when we look at their educational level, the proportion is relatively small among those with high levels of education, including degree holders.

**Table 14: Educational Composition of Return Emigrants and Emigrants in Kerala, 2008**

Educational status	REM	EMI	REM percent	REM /100 EMI
Illiterate	19314	149003	1.7	13.0
Without School Education	19314	2191	1.7	881.5
Primary not complete	73279	60806	6.3	120.5
Primary	160191	109561	13.8	146.2
Secondary not Complete	510681	847455	44.1	60.3
Secondary	255056	585604	22.0	43.6
Degree Holders	81800	274450	7.1	29.8
Others	37492	164342	3.2	22.8
Total	1157127	2193412	100.0	52.8

Of the return emigrants, 44 per cent (the largest proportion) have not completed their secondary education. Very few are illiterate and most have a primary level of education. About 7 per cent of the return emigrants are degree holders.



### **Employment Opportunities in Kerala for those Returning from Abroad**

Most of the return emigrants get employed as labourers in the non-agricultural sector in Kerala. (28 per cent). Another 9.7 per cent get work in the private sector. 23 per cent become self employed.

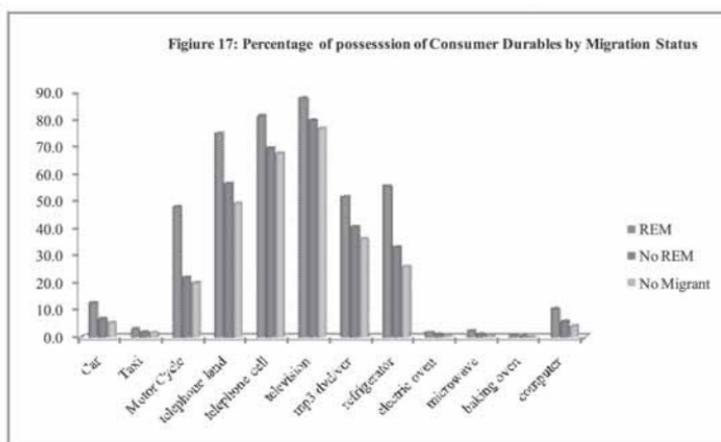
Only a few emigrants were employed in the agricultural sector when abroad, but that sector provided the highest employment ratio for return emigrant labourers. Many who were not employed in the agricultural sector as emigrants, began to work in agriculture when they returned. Relatively fewer worked in semi-Government sector when abroad and probably remained in that sector after their return.

**Table 15: Employment Sector of Return Emigrants in Kerala and Emigrants when Abroad, 2008**

Employment Status	REM	EMI	REM %	REM/ 100 EMI
Government	15338	43824	1.3	35.0
Semi-Government	9657	36703	0.8	26.3
Private Sector	112476	1183260	9.7	9.5
Self Employment	265284	70667	22.9	375.4
Unpaid Family Worker	37492	4382	3.2	855.5
Labourer in Agriculture	55670	3835	4.8	1451.8
Labourer in Non-Agriculture	323794	569718	28.0	56.8
Job Seekers	73280	21912	6.3	334.4
Job not Required	13633	2191	1.2	622.2
Student	30107	123256	2.6	24.4
Household work	85777	70119	7.4	122.3
Others	134630	63545	11.6	211.9
Total	1157137	2193413	100.0	52.8

### Possession of Common Consumer Durables

In all the Migration Monitoring Studies since 1998, information about whether or not a household possessed any or all of the common



consumer durables like refrigerators, televisions, etc. was obtained. Therefore, comparable data on the proportion of households which possessed these consumer items are available.

**Table 16: Possession of Consumer Durables by Migration Status, 2008**

Consumer Durables	REM	No REM	No Migrant	Difference
Car	11.3	6.8	5.5	5.8
Taxi	2.9	1.9	1.8	1.1
Motor Cycle	33.5	21.8	19.9	13.5
Telephone land	74.7	56.4	49.1	25.6
Telephone cell	81.1	69.3	67.5	13.6
Television	87.6	79.6	76.5	11.1
Mp3/dvd/vcr	53.4	40.6	36.2	17.2
Refrigerator	55.5	33.0	26.0	29.5
Electric oven	1.8	1.1	0.8	1.0
Microwave	2.3	1.1	0.8	1.5
Baking oven	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.5
Computer	10.4	5.8	4.1	6.3

Three groups are compared in Table 16 and Figure 17. They are Households with REM, households without REM but with other migrant groups, and households without any migrant. The proportion of household possessing these consumer goods is highest for the REM group for each one of the enumerated items.

### **Fuel Used for Cooking**

The type of fuel used by a household for cooking is an indicator of the economic status of the household. We assume that those who use LPG for cooking are economically better off than those use wood for fuel.

**Table 17: Type of fuel used by the Number of Return Emigrants per Household**

REM	Wood	Electri- city	Kero sene	LP Gas	Others	Total	% with LPG
0	8469	61	46	4637	22	13235	35.0
1	910	6	4	647	1	1568	41.3
2	61	0	0	87	1	149	58.4
3+	19	1	0	27	1	48	56.3
1+	990	7	4	761	3	1765	43.1
Total	9459	68	50	5398	25	15000	36.0

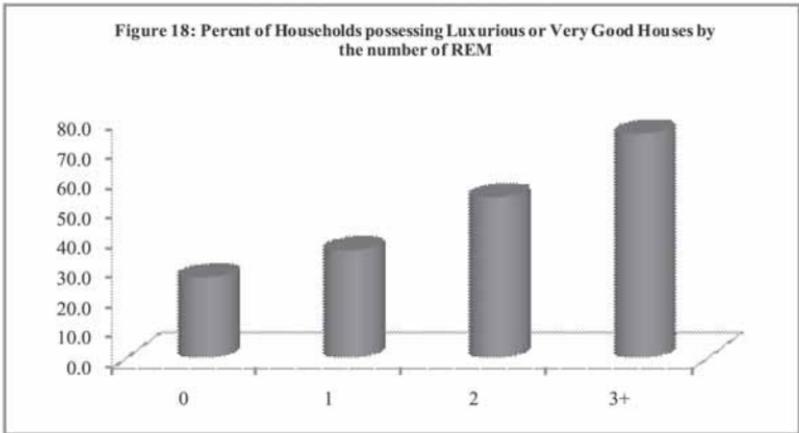
Table 17 indicates that 35 per cent of households without a REM use LPG for cooking. The figure increases to 41.3 per cent in households with at least one REM. The use of LPG increases with the number of REM in the household. From 35 per cent for households which have no REM, it increases to 41 per cent for households which have one REM, 58 per cent for households which have 2 REM and 56 per cent for households which have 3 or more REM. Some of the households without REM, still could have had EMI. The differential would have been larger had households with EMI had been removed.

### Quality of House

The quality of the house is a very important indicator of the economic status of a household. In this study as in earlier studies, houses are classified as 'kutchra', 'poor', 'good', 'very good' or 'luxurious' on the basis of the number of rooms, quality of building materials used for the roof, walls and the like. The proportion of 'luxurious or very good' houses increases from 26.9 per cent among households with no REM to 38.5 per cent among households with one or more REM. There is a steady progression from Kutchra to luxurious as the number of REM increases.

**Table 18: Quality of Houses by the Number of Return Emigrants per Household**

REM	Luxur-ious	Very good	Good	Poor	Kutchra	Total	% with Luxurious or Very good
0	467	3096	6952	2312	408	13235	26.9
1	92	472	860	114	30	1568	36.0
2	20	60	60	6	3	149	53.7
3+	14	22	11	1	0	48	75.0
1+	126	554	931	121	33	1765	38.5
Total	593	3650	7883	2433	441	15000	28.3

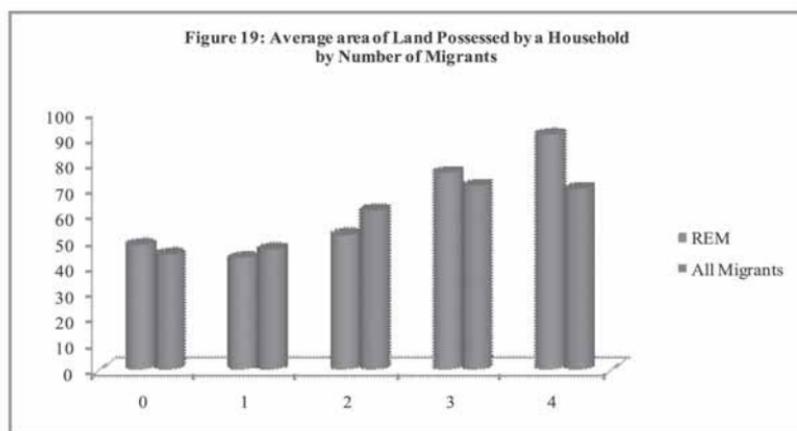


Some of the households without REM, still could have had EMI. The differential would have been greater if the households with EMI had been excluded.

### Ownership of House

Most households in the sample (96 to 97 per cent) own a house and some land. There are small differences between households with and without return emigrants. But these differences are statically insignificant.

The average area of land owned by all households in the sample is 48.1 cents. The average area of land owned increases steadily with the number of return emigrants or other categories of emigrants in the household.



Several points are evident from the Figure 19.

1. The average area of land possessed by households with just **one** return emigrant is less than the land possessed by households without any return emigrant.
2. The average area of land possessed by a household with return emigrants increases steadily with the number of return emigrants in the household.
3. The average area of land for households with return emigrants is larger than that of households with all migrants irrespective of the number of migrants.

This shows that, from the point of view of area of land possessed, households with just one return emigrant are, on an average, poorer than those which do not have a return emigrant. In Kerala, emigrants and return emigrants are from relatively poorer households. Only when a household has more than one return emigrant, its average possession of land grows to be more than that of households without any migrant.

**Table 19: Average area of land possessed by Households by the number of Emigrants**

No. of migrant	Average
No Migrant	44.7
1 Migrant	46.9
2 Migrants	61.8
3 Migrants	71.3
4 Migrants	70.1
All Migrants	48.1

**PART II****EMIGRATION PROCESS: SPECIAL STUDY OF RETURN EMIGRANTS**

A special study of the 2037 REMs identified in KMS 2008 collected information on the characteristics of the return emigrants at the various stages of their emigration and return. It includes:

- the characteristics of the REM on the eve of their initial emigration (situation in Kerala before emigration)
- their initial emigration experience, obtaining passport, visa, ticket, etc.
- their living and working conditions abroad and the problems they faced as emigrants
- living and working conditions after their return to Kerala
- future plans

Taken together, this special study provides the chronicle of Kerala emigrants starting with their life in Kerala as non-migrants, the problems they faced in the emigration process, their life abroad as emigrants, and finally their account as return emigrants together with all the tangible and intangible assets they acquired while living and working abroad. Such information gives a clear impression about the Kerala emigrant's contribution to the social, cultural and economic changes in Kerala society.

## Status on the Eve of Emigration

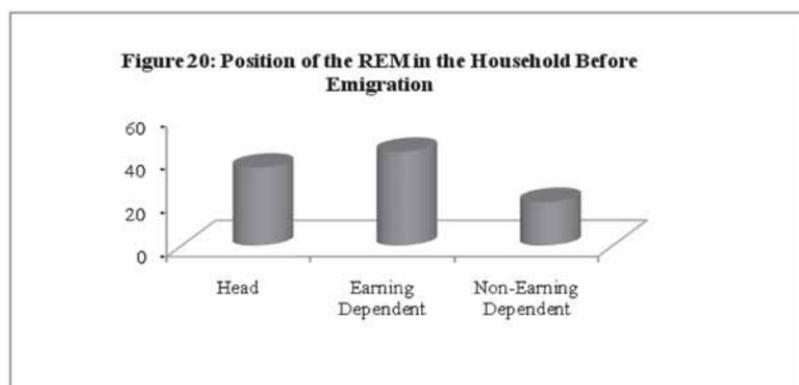
This section deals with information about the REMs just before their first emigration from Kerala - how many of them emigrated? What were their economic activities? What were their income levels? and What were their other socio-economic characteristics, etc., before emigration? Answers to such questions serve as benchmark information. Changes resulting from emigration and return emigration can be gauged from such benchmark information.

No attempt is made in this section to inflate the sample frequencies to population level. On the other hand, this section is concerned with the structural aspects of the REM. The analysis uses percentage distributions to show the percentage of REM that are unemployed, the percentage that is illiterate, etc. No attempt is made here to estimate the number of REM with these attributes at the state level.

## Status of REM in the Household

The impact of emigration on households depends to some extent on who has emigrated from the household. Is it the head of the household or is it one of his/her dependents?

Earning dependent members of the household were more among the emigrants from Kerala. About 44 per cent of the REMs were earning



dependents. Nearly the same proportion (about 40 per cent) was head of the household. A fifth of them were non-earning dependents.

### **Economic Activity**

In an earlier section, the activity status of the return emigrants in 2008 (after return) was described. This section gives their activity status in Kerala before emigration. A comparison of the two would give the extent of change in economic activity before and after emigration.

Before emigration, the majority of the REM (nearly 39 per cent) was working as non-agricultural labourers in Kerala. About 16 per cent were working in the private sector. Another 15 per cent were self-employed workers. Job seekers (unemployed) constituted about 12 per cent.

**Table 20: Employment Sector of Return Emigrants before emigration**

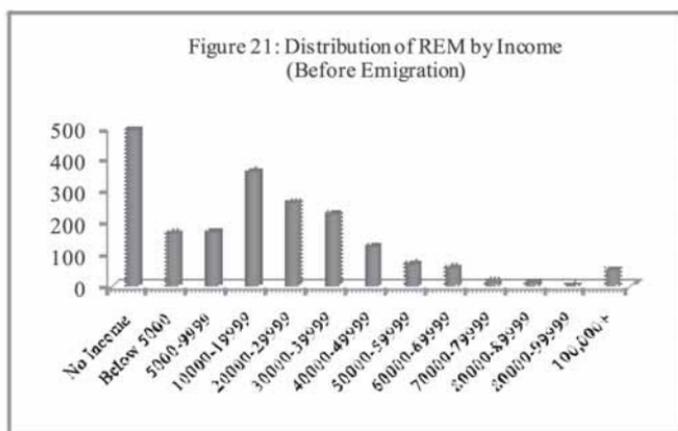
Employment status	REM in Kerala	Total Population	Percentage		
			REM	Total	Difference
Government	37	1403	1.8	2.3	-0.4
Semi-Government	12	543	0.6	0.9	-0.3
Private Sector	319	3291	15.7	5.3	10.4
Self Employment	296	4515	14.5	7.3	7.3
Unpaid Family Worker	20	547	1.0	0.9	0.1
Labourer in Agricultural	69	3463	3.4	5.6	-2.2
Labourer in Non-Agricultural	796	8144	39.1	13.1	26.0
Job Seekers	240	2057	11.8	3.3	8.5
Job not Required	0	226	0.0	0.4	-0.4
Student	59	15742	2.9	25.3	-22.4
Household work	133	16753	6.5	26.9	-20.4
Others	56	5590	2.7	9.0	-6.2
Total	2037	62274	100.0	100.0	0.0

**Table 21: Employment Sector of Return Emigrants before and after emigration**

Activity	Before Leaving	After Return	Difference
Government	1.8	1.3	-0.5
Semi-Government	0.6	0.8	0.2
Private Sector	15.7	9.7	-6
Self Employment	14.5	22.9	8.4
Unpaid Family Worker	1.0	3.2	2.2
Labourer in Agricultural	3.4	4.8	1.4
Labourer in Non- Agricultural	39.1	28.0	-11.1
Job Seekers	11.8	6.3	-5.5
Job not Required	2.9	1.2	-1.7
Student	6.5	2.6	-3.9
Household work	0.2	7.4	7.2
Others	2.5	11.6	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	0.0

### Income of the Prospective Emigrants

A sizeable proportion of the prospective emigrants had no income at all on the eve of their emigration; that is, 496 out of a total of 2037



prospective emigrants or 24.3 percent had no income. There were few prospective emigrants with an annual income of Rs 50,000 or more. The average annual income of prospective emigrants is Rs 21,847. The corresponding average for the total population is not available for comparison.

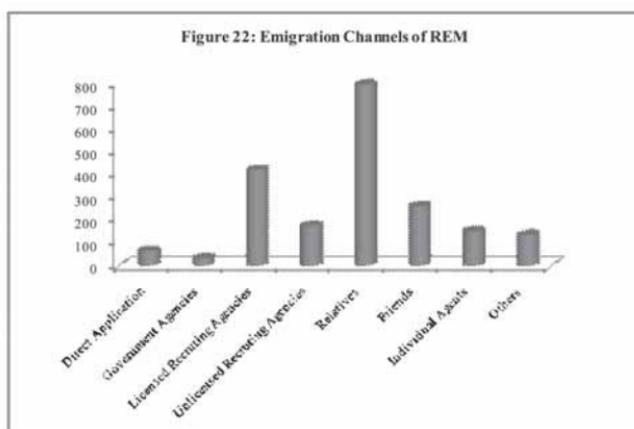
**Table 22: Income of Return Emigrants Before Emigration**

Amount	Numbers	Percentage
No Income	496	24.3
Below 5000	169	8.3
5000-9999	172	8.4
10000-19999	363	17.8
20000-29999	264	13.0
30000-39999	228	11.2
40000-49999	126	6.2
50000-59999	71	3.5
60000-69999	59	2.9
70000-79999	18	0.9
80000-89999	15	0.7
80000-99999	3	0.1
100,000+	53	2.6
Total	2037	100.0
Average (Rs)	21,847	

### **Channels of Information about Emigration**

Where did the prospective emigrants in Kerala get the required information about emigration?

The principal channel through which the Kerala REMs got their initial information about emigration was 'friends and relatives'. Licensed recruiting agents were the second most common channel. The Government played only a minor role in this matter.



### Country of Destination

The largest proportion of emigrants selected Saudi Arabia as their destination. Almost an equal number selected the United Arab Emirates. Other preferred destination were Oman (13 per cent), Kuwait (5.1 per cent), (Bahrain 5 per cent), and Qatar (4.4 per cent).

**Table 23: Country of Destination Return Emigrants**

Countries	First	Last	Percentage	
			First	Last
Bahrain	102	102	5.0	5.0
Iraq	12	10	0.6	0.5
Japan	6	7	0.3	0.3
Kuwait	106	104	5.2	5.1
Malaysia	10	9	0.5	0.4
Oman	265	258	13.0	12.7
Qatar	87	89	4.3	4.4
Saudi Arabia	702	688	34.5	33.8
Singapore	17	14	0.8	0.7
Sri Lanka	2	2	0.1	0.1
UAE	672	697	33.0	34.2
USA	10	10	0.5	0.5
Others	46	47	2.3	2.3
Total	2037	2037	100.0	100.0

### Reasons for Emigration

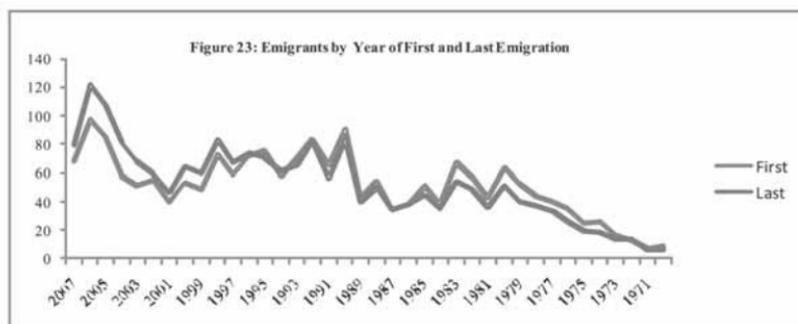
The principal reason for emigration is to seek new employment or to secure better employment. More than half the number of the REMs mentioned that they emigrated in order to get a job. A second reason given was to save money or to meet their growing financial needs. A third reason was to be able to build or buy a house. Some had incurred debts and had emigrated in order to be able to pay back their accumulated debts.

**Table 24: Reason for Emigration of REM**

Reason	First	Second	Third	1 <sup>st</sup> Priority	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority	3 <sup>rd</sup> Priority
To Get a Job	1099	148	72	54.0	7.3	3.5
Accumulate Savings	342	596	275	16.8	29.3	13.5
To meet Expenditure	277	660	422	13.6	32.4	20.7
For Marriage of dependents	29	92	108	1.4	4.5	5.3
For a house	41	295	533	2.0	14.5	26.2
Purchase Vehicle	0	11	61	0.0	0.5	3.0
Pay back debts	62	77	266	3.0	3.8	13.1
Pleasure of Going Abroad	52	106	62	2.6	5.2	3.0
Others	135	52	238	6.6	2.6	11.7
Total	2037	2037	2037	100.0	100.0	100.0

### Year of Emigration

On the whole, there was a steady increase in the number of emigrants by the year of emigration. However, the increase was not consistent. For example, the number of REMs who had emigrated around 1990-97 was greater than the number that had emigrated around 2000.

**Table 25: Year of Emigration of REM**

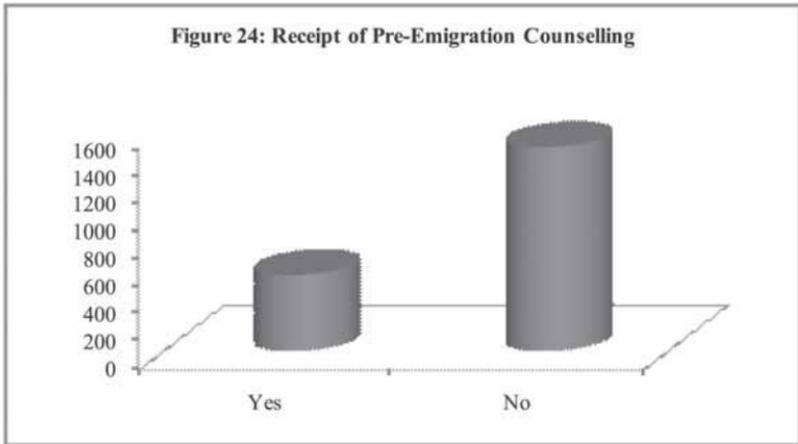
Year	First	Last	Year	First	Last
2007	68	80	1987	34	34
2006	97	122	1986	38	38
2005	85	108	1985	51	45
2004	58	81	1984	38	35
2003	51	68	1983	67	54
2002	55	60	1982	56	48
2001	40	47	1981	43	36
2000	53	64	1980	63	51
1999	48	60	1979	52	40
1998	73	83	1978	44	37
1997	59	67	1977	40	33
1996	72	74	1976	35	26
1995	75	71	1975	25	19
1994	58	62	1974	26	18
1993	71	65	1973	16	14
1992	83	82	1972	13	14
1991	65	56	1971	7	6
1990	90	83	1970	9	6
1989	43	40	1938- 1969	82	60
1988	54	50	Total	2037	2037

### Pre-Emigration Counselling

Not many underwent any pre-emigration counselling in Kerala before emigration. The proportion of emigrants that got some counselling was only about 27 per cent.

**Table 26: Pre-Emigration Counselling**

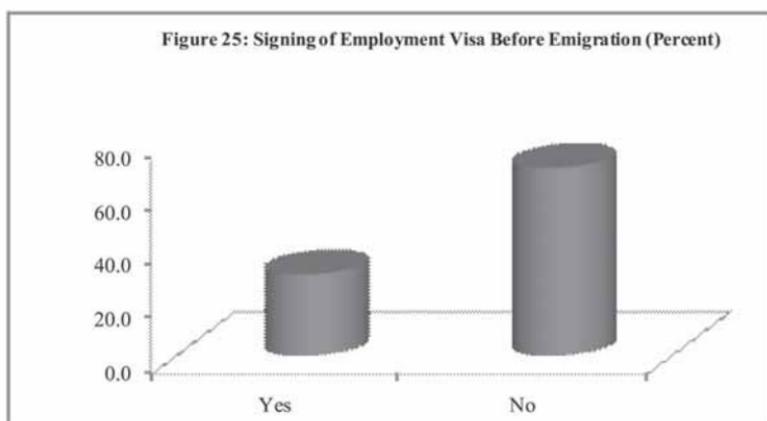
	First	Last	First	Last
Yes	554	564	27.2	27.7
No	1483	1473	72.8	72.3
Total	2037	2037	100.0	100.0



However, most of the REM had obtained an employment visa before their first emigration. About 20 per cent went abroad first with a visiting or some other similar visa. And this practice was followed for subsequent emigrations also. On the other hand, only about 30.2 percent of the REM had signed an employment contract before emigration

**Table 27: Type of Emigration Visa Received**

Visa type	First	Last	Percentage	
			First	Last
Employment Visa	1637	1636	80.4	80.3
Visiting Visa	137	141	6.7	6.9
Tourist Visa	2	2	0.1	0.1
Pilgrimage Visa	53	56	2.6	2.7
Others	208	202	10.2	9.9
Total	2037	2037	100.0	100.0



## EMIGRATION EXPERIENCE

### Number of Emigrations Made by Return Emigrants

Somle of the Kerala return emigrants emigrated just once; they returned to Kerala for good after that one episode. Some others went back again. The number of times of re-emigration varied from just one more time to twice or many more times (see Table 28)

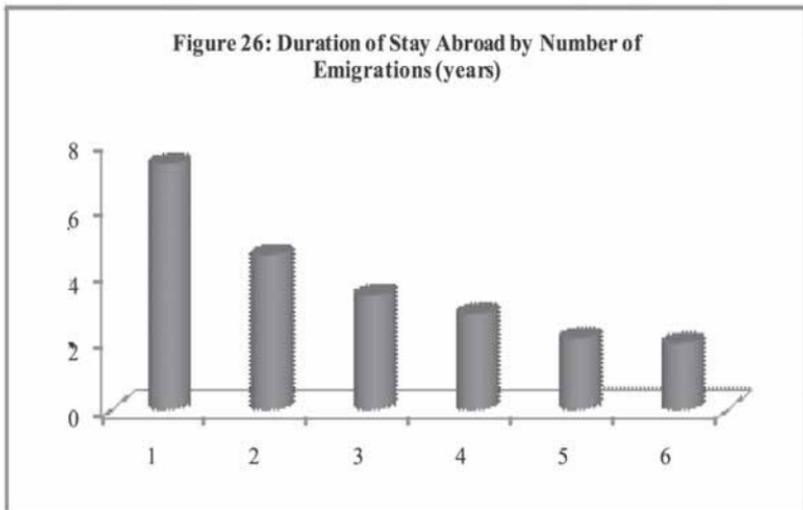
Most of the REM (84 per cent) had returned after just one emigration; they did not go back. About 13 per cent of them had emigrated twice before returning for good. About 3.3 per cent emigrated more than two times.

**Table 28: Number of Times Emigrated**

No of Episode	Emigration per REM	
	Number	Percentage
1	1714	84.1
2	255	12.5
3	34	1.7
4	20	1.0
5	13	0.6
6	1	0.0
Total	2037	100.0

**Return Emigrant's Duration of Stay Abroad**

The average period of stay abroad during the first emigration episode was 7.4 years. Those who had emigrated around the year 2001 returned around the year 2008. The average periods of stay are very much lower for subsequent emigration episodes. The average decreases steadily from 7.4 years for the first episode of emigration to 2.0 years for the sixth episode.



## Male-Female Difference

Relatively more men than women set out on more than one emigration. While 18.5 per cent of male REM emigrated more than once before finally returning to Kerala to settle down, the corresponding figure for female REM was only 12 per cent.

## By Marital Status

Among the return emigrants, 4.8 per cent of unmarried had made more than one emigration. However, among the married return emigrants as much 17.4 per cent had made more than one emigration.

**Table 29: Marital Status at the Time of Emigration, by the Number of Emigrations**

Marital Status	Number of Emigrations			Percentage		
	One	2 or more	All	One	2 or more	All
Unmarried	200	10	210	95.2	4.8	100.0
Married	1454	306	1760	82.6	17.4	100.0
Widowed	44	3	47	93.6	6.4	100.0
Others	16	4	20	80.0	20.0	100.0
Total	1714	323	2037	84.1	15.9	100.0

## By Destination Countries

The largest number of Kerala REM had returned from Saudi Arabia, that is, 34.5 per cent of the total. Almost an equal number (33 per cent) had returned from UAE. Other countries from where Kerala REM had returned are: Oman (13 per cent) Bahrain and Kuwait (5 per cent each) and Qatar (4.3 per cent).

As mentioned earlier, about 16 per cent of the REM had made more than one emigration. The largest proportion of emigrants that had

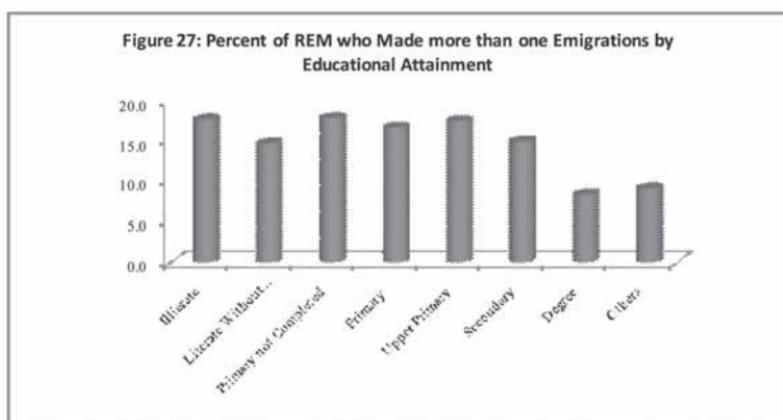
**Table 30: Country from where Return Emigrants returned**

	Number of EMI Percentage		Total	Total to all EMI
	One	Two plus		
Bahrain	77.5	22.5	100.0	5.0
Iraq	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.6
Japan	83.3	16.7	100.0	0.3
Kuwait	85.0	15.0	100.0	4.9
Malaysia	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.5
Oman	83.8	16.2	100.0	13.0
Qatar	77.0	23.0	100.0	4.3
Saudi Arabia	85.0	15.0	100.0	34.5
Singapore	94.1	5.9	100.0	0.8
UAE	83.9	16.1	100.0	33.0
USA	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.5
Others	88.5	11.5	100.0	2.6
Total	84.1	15.9	100.0	100.0

made more than one emigrations are those who came back from Sri Lanka. Other countries with large proportions of more than one emigration are: Bahrain, Japan, Kuwait, Oman and UAE. On the other hand, those returning from Malaysia and USA did not choose to re-emigrate.

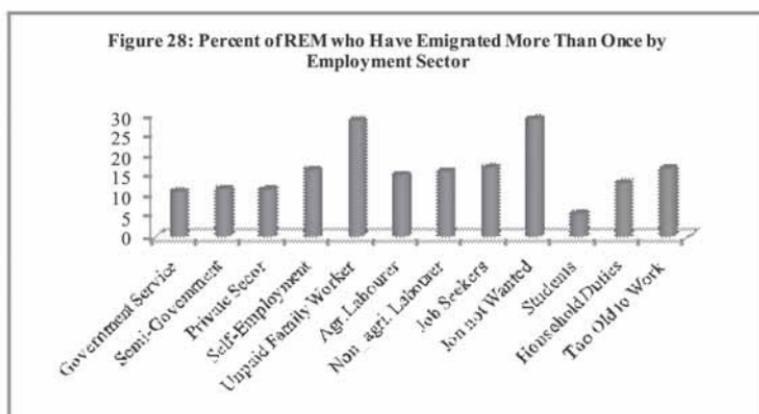
### **By Educational Attainment**

Few return emigrants with higher education had re-emigrated more than once. As the level of education increases, the proportion of return emigrants who had re-emigrated more than once decreases. The degree holders had the lowest proportion of REM who had re-emigrated more than once.



### By Employment Sector

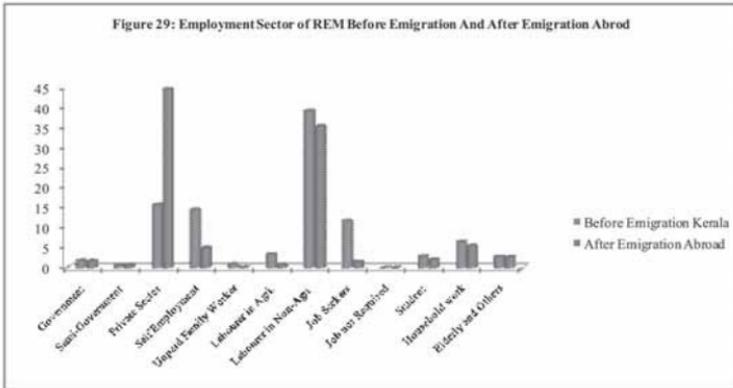
The proportion of return emigrants who have made more than one re-emigration is relatively high among unpaid family workers and among persons who were not looking for a job.



The observed major change in employment after emigration is the increase in the proportion of employed in the private sector and a decrease in the proportion of unemployed, and a decrease in the proportion of self-employed.

**Table 31: Employment Sector Before and After Emigration**

	Before Emigration	After Emigration
	Kerala	Abroad
Government	1.8	1.8
Semi-Government	0.6	0.7
Private Sector	15.7	44.5
Self Employment	14.5	5.0
Unpaid Family Worker	1.0	0.1
Labourer in Agri.	3.4	0.7
Labourer in Non-Agri	39.1	35.2
Job Seekers	11.8	1.6
Job not Required	0.0	0.0
Student	2.9	2.1
Household work	6.5	5.5
Elderly and Others	2.7	2.7



### Cost of Emigration

Emigration is expensive. To emigrate, a person needs a passport, visa, air ticket, emigration clearance and the services of recruiting agencies and other intermediaries. Many of the emigrants from Kerala hail from poor families and do not have the resources to meet these expenses. Very often, they seek external help in this matter.

**Table 32: Average Cost of Emigration REM (2008), EMI (2008) and REM 2001( in Rs.)**

	2008		2001
	REM	EMI	REM
Recruiting Agencies	5391	8087	8890
Other Intermediaries	1410	2003	6151
Passport	865	1170	681
Visa	25025	30566	21203
Air Ticket	11383	13266	10968
Emigration Clearance	1244	1425	1988
Medical Test	593	—	
Loss due to fraud	421	325	12097
Others	170	—	
Total	46503	56,842	33,003

In 2008, the average cost of emigration was about Rs 57,000 for the emigrants and about Rs 47,000 for the return emigrants. The difference between the average reported by the EMI and REM could be explained in terms of the increasing trend in the cost of emigration. The return emigrants come back from abroad after a stint of about 6-8 years.

The most expensive part of emigration is getting a visa to enter the destination country. According to the results of KMS 2008, the average cost of getting a visa was about Rs. 31,000 for the emigrants and Rs. 25,000 for the return emigrants. This is more than 50 per cent of the total cost. Next in importance is the air-ticket which costs about 25 per cent of the total; it is followed by payment to recruiting agencies. The three items together add up to more than 90 percent of the total cost of emigration.

### **Sources of Finances for Emigration**

The principal sources of finance for emigration were personal savings, loans from relatives and friends and pledging of ornaments.

Nearly half of the return emigrants met a portion of the money needed for emigration from their personal savings. More than 40 per cent of them got help from friends and relatives. Another large proportion - 30 per cent - pledged ornaments to raise the needed amount. The emigrants hardly got any financial assistance from Government. Mortgaging of property to raise funds to pay for emigration costs is also very rare.

This is an area where the Government and commercial banks should play a bigger role. It is the commercial banks and the Government that obtain the most benefit from the remittances sent back home by the emigrants and from the money return emigrants bring with them when they come back.

**Table 33: Source of Finance for Emigration REM and EMI**

Source of Finance	REM	EMI*
Personal savings	47.6	28.6
Parents	30.3	20.1
Other Family Members	27.4	
Friends/Relatives	42.8	59.5
Money Lenders	15.1	14.7
Banks	11.8	5.2
Sale/mortgage of land/house	5.8	10.1
Pledging financial assets	4.1	4.5
Sale/pledge Ornaments	30.5	36.2
Government	0.1	1.3
Others	4.9	5.4

Source: Zachariah, Gopinathan Nair and Irudaya Rajan, 2006

## **WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF REM WHILE ABROAD**

### **Problems Faced on Arrival at Destination**

Most of the REM did not experience any major problems on arrival at the destination. Very few (less than 2 per cent) had passport, visa or

work permit problems. About 10 per cent of the REM had problems with their employment contract.

**Table 34: Problems Faced by REM at the time of arrival at destination**

	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No
Passport	32	1852	1884	1.7	98.3
Visa	92	1792	1884	4.9	95.1
Work Permit	164	1720	1884	8.7	91.3
Employment Contract	193	1691	1884	10.2	89.8
Others	74	1810	1884	3.9	96.1

**Table 35: Contact at the Time of Arrival Abroad**

	First	Last	First	Last
Employer	621	601	33.0	31.9
Friends	380	401	20.2	21.3
Relatives	738	711	39.2	37.7
Embassy Officials	15	14	0.8	0.7
Others	76	75	4.0	4.0
None	54	82	2.9	4.4
Total	1884	1884	100.0	100.0

On arrival at the destination, the REM was met by either his/her employer (32 per cent), relatives (38 per cent) or friends (21 per cent). Very few of the REM had no one to meet them at the airport on arrival at the destination country.

It is often reported that Kerala emigrants did not get the job in the destination country that was promised to them in their motherland at the time of recruitment. This is partly true, but is not as common as it is usually reported to be. About 25 per cent of the REM did not get the job they were promised back home; 75 per cent got exactly what they were promised. About 20 per cent of the REM was required to sign a new employment contract on their arrival at the destination country.

The most difficult part of the REM's induction into the new country is that the passport of about 70 per cent of them were commandeered by their employers in the destination country and were not allowed to be kept with them.

Conditions of work at destinations were agreeable to 75 per cent of the REM. Accommodation was free for nearly half the number of REM; and was subsidized or moderately priced for another 25 per cent. About one-fourth of the REM was not provided with any accommodation. Nearly three-fourth had to make do with shared accommodation. Those who got accommodation (82 per cent) were generally satisfied with its quality.

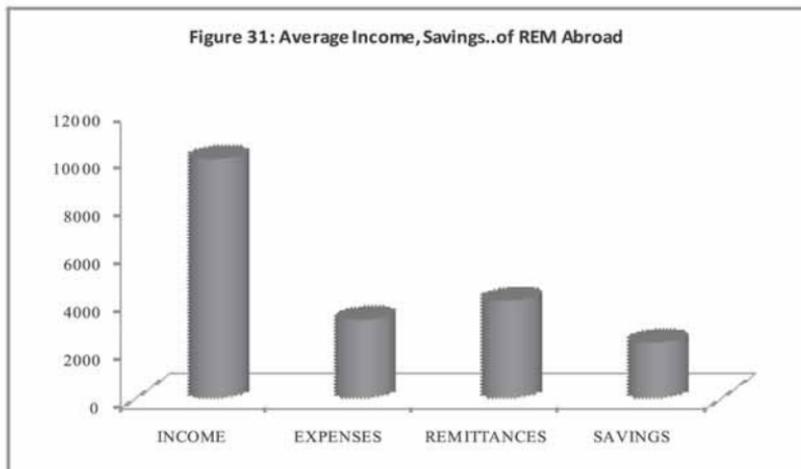
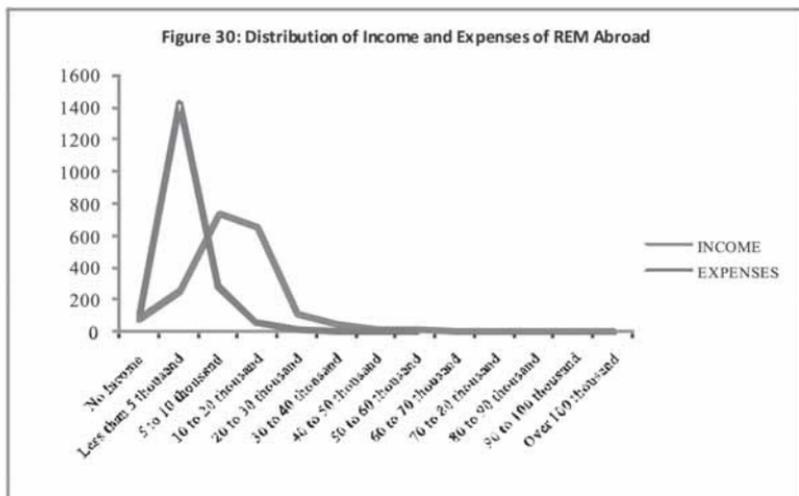
Nearly half of them (47.3 per cent) were not provided food by their employers. About a fifth (21.6 per cent) of the REM was provided free food. Some (24.4 per cent) got food at subsidized or moderate prices. Most of the REM felt that the food they got was of good quality.

Religious services were allowed and were available to the workers. Most of the REMs (95 per cent) were not accompanied by their spouses, who were left behind in Kerala. Among the many reasons given for this practice, the main one was that they (the spouses) were required in their homes to manage the household back in Kerala (27-30 per cent). The other reasons given include: that the REM did not earn adequate income to maintain a family at the destination country, unwillingness of the spouse to travel abroad, lack of accommodation, employment of the spouse or dependent at home, etc.

Few of the REM (only about 20 per cent) had reported their arrival at destination country to the local Indian Embassy; and even fewer had approached the Embassy with a complaint. The few who approached the embassy (less than 3 percent) did so about matters like their pay, communication with the family back home, harassment of local officials, etc. About half of them who approached the embassy got a positive response and the other half did not.

## Income, Expenses, Remittances

The average income of the REM while they were working abroad was about Rs 10,000 per month. However, while some had no income at all, there were a few who had a monthly income exceeding Rs 100,000. The full distribution is shown in Figure 30.



The expenses of the REM while abroad (Rs 3,286) was much lower than the income. Net savings is Rs 6,725 per month. While the largest number of REMs were in the Rs.5,000 to Rs. 10,000 income

bracket, the largest number of them were in the “less than Rs 5000” expense bracket.

From the savings, REMs were sending home an average of Rs 4,083 as monthly remittances and retaining the balance amount of Rs 2,331. The maximum a REM had sent back home as monthly remittances was Rs 40,000.

**Table 36: Distribution of REM by Monthly Income Expenses, Remittances and Savings**

	Income	Expenses	Remit- tances	Savings
No Income/Expense etc	72	104	150	708
Less than 5 thousand	246	1431	1034	892
5 to 10 thousand	739	283	564	183
10 to 20 thousand	648	50	120	78
20 to 30 thousand	108	12	13	13
30 to 40 thousand	40	1	3	7
40 to 50 thousand	12	0		1
50 to 60 thousand	10	3		1
60 to 70 thousand	1			1
70 to 80 thousand	1			
80 to 90 thousand	4			
90 to 100 thousand	0			
Over 100 thousand	3			
Total	1884	1884	1884	1884
Average (Rs)	10011	3286	4083	2331

### **Management of the Household in the motherland**

While the REM was abroad, his/her household was managed by his/her parents (in 53 per cent to 59 per cent of the cases), or by his/her spouse (in 36 per cent to 43 per cent of the cases). Similarly, money sent home as remittances was sent either to the parents (47 per cent to 53 per cent) or to spouse (39 per cent to 45 per cent).

Most of the REM (70 per cent) sends the remittances through banks. Mail transfer or through friends/ relatives are other means of sending remittances home.

**Table 37: Channels for Sending Money home**

Mode	First	Last	First	Last
Mail transfer	158	168	8.4	8.9
Bank deposit	1330	1317	70.6	69.9
Friends/relatives	175	170	9.3	9.0
Home visits only	33	33	1.8	1.8
Hawala	67	71	3.6	3.8
Other means	121	125	6.4	6.6
Total	1884	1884	100	100

### Households that Faced Problems When REM were Away

Like many households in Kerala, those of the REM also faced many problems when they were away as, for instance, a death in the family or the prolonged illness of a family member.

**Table 38: Types of Problems at Home while Abroad**

Problems	First			Last		
	Yes	Total	Percent	Yes	Total	Percent
Prolonged illness	320	1884	17.0	311	1884	16.5
Death of Family Members	335	1884	17.8	309	1884	16.4
Loss of Assets Threats to Personal	59	1884	3.1	60	1884	3.2
Safety	46	1884	2.4	47	1884	2.5
Litigation	10	1884	0.5	10	1884	0.5
Poverty/ Deprivation	75	1884	4.0	66	1884	3.5
Children's Behavioral Issues	76	1884	4.0	76	1884	4.0
Others	47	1884	2.5	49	1884	2.6

## POST-RETURN PHASE

### Reason for the Return

The principal reason for the return of REM was the expiry of their contract. This is reported as the main reason for their return by about 22 per cent of REM. About 19 per cent reported that they returned because of low wages at destination country. Ill health was the reason for return for 15 per cent of the REM. About 11 per cent reported problems at home as their reason for return.

**Table 39: Reasons for Return**

Reasons	Number	Percent
Expiry of Contract	422	22.4
Compulsory Repatriation	107	5.7
Low Wages	357	18.9
Ill Health	284	15.1
Problems at Home	205	10.9
Poor Working Conditions	178	9.4
Bad Employer	50	2.7
Bad Climate	26	1.4
Others	255	13.5
Total	1884	100.0

### Skills Acquired Abroad by the REM

An important aspect of the impact of emigration is the acquisition of several new skills abroad by the emigrants. These skills include technical skills of various types (29 per cent of the REM) marketing skills (15 per cent of REM), Managerial/supervisory skills (10 per cent of REM) and Financial management (9.2 percent of the REM).

Such skills-argumentation could be as important as remittances in the Kerala's development programmes.

**Table 40: Percent of REM with Specific skills**

Specific Skills	Yes	Percent
Technical Skills	545	28.9
Managerial/Supervisory	180	9.6
Accounting	93	4.9
House keeping	196	10.4
Marketing	276	14.6
Driving/ Sailing	180	9.6
Leadership/Organizational Skill	81	4.3
Financial Management Skills	174	9.2
Others	227	12.0

**Forms in which Savings are kept:**

Most of the REM (63 per cent) deposited their savings in commercial banks. Gold and jewellery come next in order of importance. Shares and mutual funds are not much favoured by the REM as a form of saving.

**Table 41: Where the savings are Deposited**

Mode of savings	Yes	Percent
Bank Deposits	988	63.2
Shares	53	3.4
Gold/Jewelery	433	27.7
Mutual Funds	35	2.2
Private Financiers	40	2.6
Money Lenders	14	0.9
Total	1563	100.0

**Investments**

About 44 per cent of the REM had to use part of their savings to pay back debts. These were probably debts that they incurred to meet the cost of emigration. More than 40 per cent of the REM had invested

their savings in the education of their children and medical treatment of their family members. About one-third of the REM had invested in buildings and nearly the same proportion had used their savings for marriage expenses.

**Table 42: Distribution of REM by where Savings are Deposited**

Investment	Yes	Percent
Agricultural land	291	15.4
Real Estate	79	4.2
Residential buildings	633	33.6
Transport Vehicles	174	9.2
Education of Children	783	41.6
Medical Treatment	756	40.1
Marriage	581	30.8
Business enterprises	99	5.3
Repayment of debts	826	43.8
Others	73	3.9

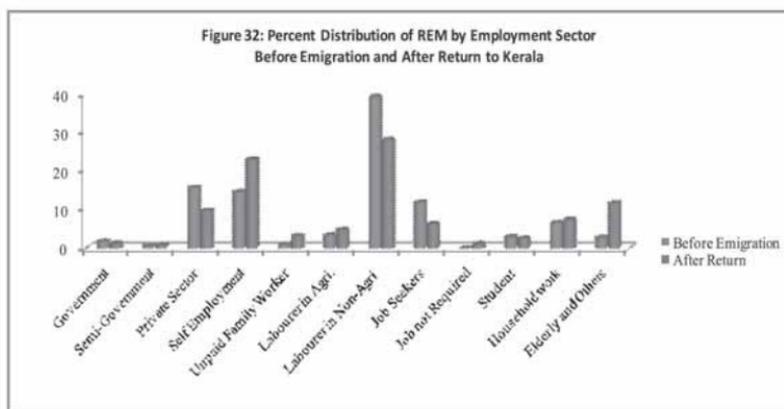
### **Economic Activity**

More than a third of the REM was engaged in a regular employment in the destination countries. About 11 per cent had temporary employment and 23 per cent were in casual jobs.

The sectors of employment of the REM after return from abroad are somewhat different from those before emigration. The proportion of REM employed in the private sector decreased from 15.7 per cent to 9.7 per cent. Similarly those employed as labourers in the non-agricultural sector decreased from 39.1 per cent to 28.0 per cent. The proportion of unemployed also decreased - from 11.8 per cent to 6.3 per cent. These decreases were compensated mainly by increases in self employment (from 14.5 per cent to 22.9 per cent) and increases in the proportion of those who are not in labour force (from 12.1 per cent to 22.8 per cent)

**Table 43: Employment Sector of REM before Emigration and After Return**

Employment Sector	Before Emigration	After Return
Government	1.8	1.3
Semi-Government	0.6	0.8
Private Sector	15.7	9.7
Self Employment	14.5	22.9
Unpaid Family Worker	1.0	3.2
Labourer in Agri.	3.4	4.8
Labourer in Non-Agri	39.1	28.0
Job Seekers	11.8	6.3
Job not Required	0.0	1.2
Student	2.9	2.6
Household work	6.5	7.4
Elderly and Others	2.7	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0



About 15 per cent of the REM was employed in the agriculture sector after return. Trade occupied another 15 per cent. About 11 per cent were employed in construction. Personal and other services employed 16 per cent of the REM.

**Table 44: Sector of Employment of REM**

Sector of employment	No	Percent
Agriculture	303	14.9
Manufacturing	85	4.2
Construction	214	10.5
Transport	164	8.1
Trade	302	14.8
Hotel and Restaurant	31	1.5
Communication	20	1.0
Personal Services	95	4.7
Other Services	229	11.2
Not Applicable	594	29.2
Total	2037	100.0

### **Investment in Enterprises**

Not many industrial establishments were established by the REM in Kerala. Out of the sample 2037 REM, only 78 established enterprises - of which 38.5 per cent were trading establishments. Table 45 does not point towards any major involvement of REM in industrial activities. These establishment employed altogether 229 – 297 workers, or an average of 3- 4 workers per establishment.

Investment in these establishments was not very large. 33 of the 78 establishments had a capital investment of 1 lakh or less. Only 7 establishments had a capital investment of more than 10 lakhs. The average annual turn-over of the 78 establishments was Rs 240,571 and the average annual profit was Rs 85,000.

**Table 45: Industrial activity of the Return Emigrants**

Industrial Activity	Number	Percentage
Process in Agri. Products	7	9.0
Repair Workshop	3	3.8
Handicraft/pottery	1	1.3
Transport/communication	8	10.3
Trading Establishment	30	38.5
Hotel/Restaurant	4	5.1
Personal Services	2	2.6
Others	23	29.5
Total	78	100.0
Not applicable	1959	

### **Very few of the unemployed REM tried to pursue any employment activity**

On the whole, the REM after coming back to Kerala did not engage in much business enterprise activity. A few tried to set up economic ventures. However, they were not very successful. Other than a few trading shops, taxi services or agricultural processing establishments, the REM did not get involved in any meaningful investment activities. Most were satisfied with investing their accumulated savings brought from abroad in fixed deposits in commercial banks. Not even stocks or shares were an option used by the return emigrants.

### **Future Plans**

The study has explored the return emigrant's future plans about starting new enterprises, business or to seek fresh employment. Only 15 per cent of them have any plans to start a new business, and only 30 per cent plan to take up any employment. Not many of them have expressed a desire to re-emigrate. Kerala REM are on the whole content to live with whatever they had saved abroad.

## DYNAMICS OF EMPLOYMENT: PANEL DATA ON EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Return emigrants identified in KMS 2007 and 2008 were re-interviewed in 2009 and information was obtained about their current employment status. This gave a set of panel data of 1049 emigrants who returned in 2007 on the sectors in which they were employed. Similar data were obtained from 1781 return emigrants identified in 2008. Thus, the sectors of employment of a total of 2830 return emigrants were available at two points of time 2007/2008 and 2009. These data are given in Table 46.

**Table 46: Employment Transition of Return Emigrants of 2007 and 2008**

		2007		
2009	Employed	Unemployed	Not in LF	Total
Employed	630	142	63	835
Unemployed	7	7	7	21
Not in Labour force	50	24	119	193
	687	173	189	1049
		2008		
2009	Employed	Unemployed	Not in LF	Total
Employed	1262	168	38	1468
Unemployed	31	22	12	65
Not in Labour force	83	27	138	248
	1376	217	188	1781
		<b>combined</b>	2007 & 2008	
2009	Employed	Unemployed	Not in LF	Total
Employed	1892	310	101	2303
Unemployed	38	29	19	86
Not in Labour force	133	51	257	441
	2063	390	377	2830

These data indicate that out of the 2830 (combined) return emigrants in the panel, 2063 were employed at the time of the original survey (2007/08). By the time of second interview in 2009, the number of employed return emigrants increased to 2303. Similarly, the number of return emigrants who were unemployed in the original surveys was 390. By the time of the resurvey in 2009, the number of unemployed return emigrants decreased by 304, that is, from 390 to just 86 persons. The number of return emigrants who were ‘not in labour force’ increased by 64, from 377 to 441, in the same period.

**Table 47: Transition of Employment of REM 2007/8- 2009**

	2007/8 Surveys	2009 Resurvey	Difference
Employed	2063	2303	+240
Unemployed	390	86	-304
Not in LF	377	441	+ 64

These figures give an overall picture of the transition in the employment situation of the return emigrants in Kerala. They indicate that in the course of less than two years, the return emigrants in Kerala experienced a 12 per cent increase in employment, a 78 per cent decrease in unemployment and a 17 per cent increase in the size of persons not in labour force. It is a very positive outcome, nothing very much to complain about. It does not lend support to the commonly held view about the hard life of Kerala emigrants after their return to the state.

### **Transition of the Employed**

The number of employed return emigrants increased by 240, but the increase in employment was not uniform in all sectors. In fact, the “labour in non-agricultural sector” which includes construction workers showed a decrease of 337. The increase in the number of employed can be attributed mainly to the “self-employment sector”, “labour in agricultural sector” and “private sector”. There were minor decreases in employment in the government and semi-government sectors.

**Table 48: Transition of return emigrants Employed by Sectors 2007**

Employment sector	2009	2007&2008	Difference
State/Central Government	51	55	-4
Semi-Government	19	26	-7
Private Sector	538	382	156
Self-Employment	757	469	288
Unpaid family work	27	27	0
Agricultural lab	237	94	143
Non-agr.labour	674	1010	-336
Total	2303	2063	240

**Decrease in Unemployment**

Between 2007/8 and 2009, the numbers of unemployed return emigrants decreased by 304. What are the employment sectors that absorbed these unemployed?

**Table 49: Employment Sector in 2009 that absorbed the unemployed in 2007/2008**

Employment Sector	Number
State/Central Government	9
Semi-Government	8
Private Sector	95
Self-Employment	115
Unpaid family work	6
Agricultural lab	28
Non-agr.labour	49
Job Seekers	29
Job not required	13
Students	0
Household work	16
Pensioners	22
Total	390

There were 390 return emigrants who were unemployed in 2007/8. By 2009, 310 of them got employment – 115 in the self-employment sector, 95 in the private sector and 49 in non-agricultural labour. Some of them (51) got out of the labour force. The balance of 29 remained unemployed.

At the same time, 38 of those who were employed in 2007/8 had become unemployed in 2009.

### **Transition in Employment of the Employed**

About 46 per cent of the employed return emigrants continued to remain in the same employment sector in 2009 as they were in 2007/8.

The largest change was among the non-agricultural labourers among whom 518 (that is  $956 - 438 = 518$ ) out of a total of 956 (54 per cent) changed their employment sector mostly to the self-employment and private sector. The corresponding change among self-employed persons was 170 (that is  $441 - 271 = 170$ ) or 39 per cent. Percentage-wise the transition was larger (57 per cent) among those in private employment.

The employment sector among the return emigrants in Kerala is quite dynamic, with a large proportion among them shifting from one employment sector to another in short periods of time.

## **PART III**

### **RETURN EMIGRATION DUE TO GLOBAL RECESSION**

The recent global financial crisis had a major impact on economic growth and employment opportunities in many countries where Kerala emigrants were working. As a result of the recession, some Kerala emigrants lost their jobs and were forced to return home or remain unemployed abroad. The recession-related return emigrants were of special concern to NORKA (the agency in Kerala Government looking after the welfare of Kerala emigrants and return emigrants). Accordingly, NORKA requested CDS to conduct a special study of REM. One of the

**Table 50: Employment Sector in 2008 and 2009**

Activity	State/ Central Government	Semi- Government	Private Sector	Self- Employment	Unpaid family work	Agricultural labour	Non-agr. labour	Total
State/Central Government	17	0	12	5	0	0	4	38
Semi-Government	1	4	0	3	0	0	0	8
Private Sector	5	7	141	66	5	14	174	412
Self-Employment	6	1	84	271	7	16	221	606
Unpaid family work	3	0	2	1	4	4	6	20
Agricultural lab	0	1	33	23	4	24	113	198
Non-agr.labour	1	3	58	72	6	32	438	610
Total	33	16	330	441	26	90	956	1892

objectives of the proposed study was to estimate of the number of Kerala emigrants who returned home due to recession related factors.

### **Return Migration during Recession**

The special study designed by CDS for this purpose collected information on the current migration status of all the emigrants identified in the 2008 KMS. How many of the 2008 batch remained in the destination countries as emigrants, how many returned home and became return emigrants? The data are given below:

**Table 51: Emigrants in 2008 by Migration Status in 2009 (Sample)**

Migration status	Number	Percent
EMI	3649	92.3
REM	304	7.7
Total	3953	100

Of the 3,953 emigrants (sample) in KMS 2008, 304 or 7.7 per cent had returned to Kerala by time of the 2009 survey (during the recession period). If that percentage is projected to the population at the state level, 7.7 per cent works out to be 173,339 return emigrants. However, this is not the stock of return emigrants, but number of return emigrants who came back during a specific period (November 2008 to June 2009). This period coincides with the recession months in the Gulf region. Thus, return emigration among Kerala emigrants during recession months is estimated to be about 173,000.

### **District-wise data**

Table 52 shows the estimated number of emigrants who returned to Kerala by district of origin.

**Table 52: Distribution of 2008 Emigrants by Migration Status in 2009**

Districts	Percent of Total		Number in the state	
	EMI	REM	REM	Percent
Thiruvananthapuram	90.6	9.4	28897	16.7
Kollam	94.2	5.8	12021	6.9
Pathanamthitta	94.4	5.6	6722	3.9
Alappuzha	92.0	8.0	10590	6.1
Kottayam	94.2	5.8	5146	3.0
Idukki	100.0	0.0	0	0
Ernakulam	94.5	5.5	6684	3.9
Thrissur	91.8	8.2	23348	13.5
Palakkad	89.7	10.3	19502	11.3
Malappuram	92.7	7.3	24441	14.1
Kozhikode	90.5	9.5	18997	11.0
Wayanad	93.3	6.7	933	0.5
Kannur	90.6	9.4	11247	6.5
Kasaragod	92.9	7.1	4810	2.8
Kerala	92.3	7.7	173339	100.0

About 29,000 emigrants who returned were originally from Thiruvananthapuram district. The corresponding number is 24,000 for Malappuram district and 23,000 for Thrissur. The full distribution is given in Table 52.

### **Return Emigration Due to Recession**

Can we conclude from this analysis that all the 173,000 emigrants who returned to Kerala during recession months had indeed come back as a result of global recession? The 2009 special survey could provide answers to this question to a large extent. The survey included a question on the reasons for the migrant's return. Table 53 summarises the answers to these questions.

Table 53 indicates that there are several reasons why the emigrants return to Kerala. Expiry of contract is a major reason for their return and this holds well in 1998 and 2008 also (which are non-recession years). Similarly, many emigrants return home because their presence is required to solve family/domestic problems. This is particularly applicable in the case of female return emigrants. Their return has nothing to do with recession in the destination country. Some emigrants return because they cannot withstand the harsh and hostile climate in some Gulf countries. This too has nothing to do with the recession. Some emigrants said that they returned because they did not get the salary or wages they were promised when they were recruited before emigration. This again has nothing to do with the recession. Thus, a majority of the emigrants returned home in 2009 for reasons not related to the global recession.

In 2009, the largest number of emigrants returned to Kerala because they had lost their jobs due to the global financial crisis. Twenty one per cent of the REM (or 37,000) returned because they had lost their jobs due to the recession. Another 3.3 per cent underwent compulsory retirement. If they were also added, about 24.7 per cent or about 43,000 emigrants returned principally due to recession. About 11.5 per cent returned because their contract had expired and was not renewed. This was a common feature in the Gulf region and was not very much related to the recession. Return emigrants in 2003 and 1998 had given the same reason when asked why they came back. However, for arguments sake, if they were also added, the number would increase to 36.2 per cent or 63,000 persons. The number of return emigration attributable to the global recession would, at the most, be 63,000. Thus, the number of emigrants who returned home due to recession-related reasons could fall in the range between a minimum of 37,000 and a maximum of 63,000.

**Table 53: Reasons for Return among Emigrants in 2008**

Reasons for the Return	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	% Total	Cumulative %	Number
Lost job due to financial crisis	65	0	65	25.4	0.0	21.4	21.4	37022
Expiry of Contract	30	5	35	11.7	10.4	11.5	32.9	56940
Compulsory Repatriation	10	0	10	3.9	0.0	3.3	36.2	62631
Low wages or not getting promised wages	49	1	50	19.1	2.1	16.4	52.7	91085
Poor working condition	14	0	14	5.5	0.0	4.6	57.3	99052
Harsh behaviour of Employer	3	0	3	1.2	0.0	1.0	58.2	100759
Ill health	22	3	25	8.6	6.3	8.2	66.5	114986
Problems at home	24	9	33	9.4	18.8	10.9	77.3	133765
Others	39	30	69	15.2	62.5	22.7	100.0	173032
Total	256	48	304	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	173032

## From Return Emigrants to Emigrants

Some of the return emigrants identified in KMS 2008 re-migrated to become emigrants once again. They were about 9.549 per cent of the total return emigrants or about 110,494 when projected to the Kerala population. Thus, in the first half of 2009 (the recession period), 173,000 emigrants returned to Kerala; and, during the same period, 110,000 former return emigrants had re-emigrated once again. Thus re-emigration is a real option available for some of the return emigrants.

## Country of residence of Emigrants

The largest number of emigrants who returned during the recession period turned up from the United Arab Emirates (46.4 per cent). However, the return emigration rate was highest among emigrants in Kuwait at 15.0 per cent. Return emigration rate from the UAE was only 9.6 per cent. Saudi Arabia contributed 23 per cent of the return emigrants and Kuwait 11 per cent. Together with the UAE, these countries accounted

**Table 54: REM: Percent and Rate by Country of Origin of Return Emigrants**

Countries	Return Emigrants	Emigrants	Percent	Rate/100 Emigrants
United Arab Emirates	141	1469	46.4	9.6
Saudi Arabia	69	867	22.7	8.0
Kuwait	32	214	10.5	15.0
Oman	21	279	6.9	7.5
Qatar	16	202	5.3	7.9
Bahrain	8	186	2.6	4.3
USA	3	186	1.0	1.6
Maldives	3	7	1.0	42.9
Others	11	543	3.6	2.0
Total	304	3953	100.0	7.7

for about 80 per cent of the return emigrants from among the 2008 emigrants.

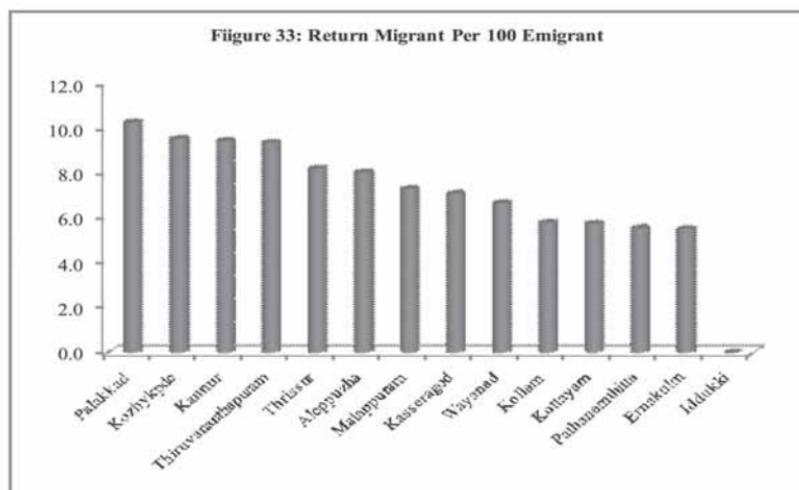
Among the countries listed in the table, the emigrants in the United States of America had reported the lowest rate of return.

### District of Origin of Return Emigrants

The bulk of the return emigrants were from among the emigrants hailing from Malappuram district (14.8 percent), but return emigration as percent of emigrants is highest in Palakkad district (10.3 per cent). Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Kozhikode each had more than a tenth of the total return emigrants in the state. Besides, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur also have a relatively high return emigration ratio.

**Table 55: Return Emigrants: Rate and Percent by Districts**

District	Return Emigrants	Emigrants	Return Emigrants /100 Emigrants	Return Emigrants (%)
Thiruvananthapuram	40	427	9.4	13.2
Kollam	19	328	5.8	6.3
Pathanamthitta	20	360	5.6	6.6
Alappuzha	16	199	8.0	5.3
Kottayam	11	191	5.8	3.6
Idukki	0	20	0.0	0.0
Ernakulam	10	181	5.5	3.3
Thrissur	36	438	8.2	11.8
Palakkad	30	292	10.3	9.9
Malappuram	45	616	7.3	14.8
Kozhikode	31	325	9.5	10.2
Wayanad	5	75	6.7	1.6
Kannur	22	233	9.4	7.2
Kasaragod	19	268	7.1	6.3
Total	304	3953	7.7	100.0



### Sex Composition

As emigrants are mostly males, the vast majority of those who returned are also males (84 per cent). However, the ratio of return emigrants is higher among females. While 7.6 per cent of male emigrants returned, a slightly higher proportion (8.5 per cent) of female emigrants returned.

**Table 56: Sex Composition of Return Emigrants from among 2008 Emigrants**

SEX	EMI	REM	Percent	Rate (%)
Males	3390	256	84.2	7.6
Females	563	48	15.8	8.5
Total	3953	304	100.0	7.7

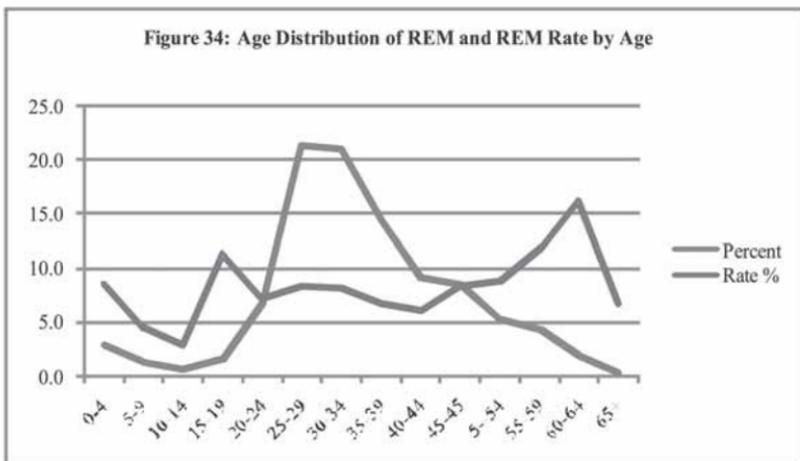
### Age Composition

The largest number of return emigrants is in the 25-35 age group which accounts for 42.5 per cent of the total. However, the ratio of return emigrants is highest in the 15-19 age group and at ages over 55 years. More than 11 per cent of the youngsters in the 15-19 age group

have returned. Similarly, more than 10 per cent of the elderly also returned during the recession. Children and the elderly were more prone to return during the recession than persons in the prime working ages.

**Table 57: Age Distribution and Ratio of REM to EMI**

Age group	Percent	Ratio
0-4	3.0	8.7
5-9	1.3	4.5
10-14	0.7	2.8
15-19	1.6	11.4
20-24	6.9	7.2
25-29	21.4	8.2
30-34	21.1	8.2
35-39	14.5	6.6
40-44	9.2	6.1
45-49	8.6	8.3
50-54	5.3	8.8
55-59	4.3	11.8
60-64	2.0	16.2
65+	0.3	6.7
Total	100.0	7.7

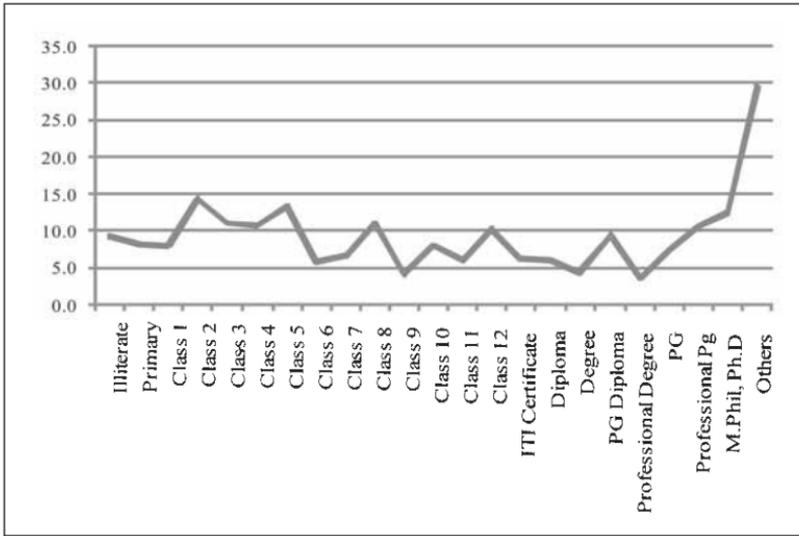


## Educational Attainment

Emigrants with 10<sup>th</sup> standard education contributed the largest number of return emigrants (29.3 per cent). Those with 12 years of schooling constituted 17.4 per cent. However, the rate per emigrant is not the highest in these groups.

**Table 58: Education: Percent of total and percent of EMI**

Education	REM	EMI	REM/ 100 EMI	Percent
Illiterate	9	96	9.4	3.0
Pre-primary	2	24	8.3	0.7
Class 1	2	25	8.0	0.7
Class 2	3	21	14.3	1.0
Class 3	5	45	11.1	1.6
Class 4	14	131	10.7	4.6
Class 5	10	75	13.3	3.3
Class 6	3	52	5.8	1.0
Class 7	10	148	6.8	3.3
Class 8	19	172	11.0	6.3
Class 9	16	373	4.3	5.3
Class 10	89	1106	8.0	29.3
Class 11	2	33	6.1	0.7
Class 12	53	515	10.3	17.4
ITI Certificate	15	239	6.3	4.9
Diploma	7	117	6.0	2.3
Degree	19	439	4.3	6.3
PG Diploma	2	21	9.5	0.7
Professional Degree	6	166	3.6	2.0
PG	4	54	7.4	1.3
Professional PG	8	75	10.7	2.6
M.Phil/ Ph.D	1	8	12.5	0.3
Others	5	17	29.4	1.6
Total	304	3952	7.7	100.0

**Figure 35: Education: Return Emigrant/100Emigrant**

The rate of return emigration among the 2008 emigrants is relatively high among those with less than 6 years of schooling. On the whole, the rate decreases with years of schooling, but it seems to reach the highest point at the very far end, that is for those with PG, research and professional education.

### **Economic Activity**

The largest proportion of emigrants who returned during recession months was those who were unemployed (32.2 per cent). Another 20.4 per cent were working in the private sector. About 15.5 were non-agricultural workers. Nine per cent were engaged in household work. Thus, in the total number of return migrants, about 46.1 per cent were working, 21.6 were not in the labour force and 32.2 were unemployed in the destination countries.

**Table 59 : Employment Sector: Percent of total and Percent of EMI**

Activity	REM	EMI	Percent	Ratio
Government	0	74	0.0	0.0
Semi-Government	0	12	0.0	0.0
Private sector	62	2938	20.4	2.1
Self Employed	23	90	7.6	25.6
Agricultural Labour	8	15	2.6	53.3
Non-Agricultural Labour	47	228	15.5	20.6
Unpaid Family Worker	0	1	0.0	-
Job seekers	98	110	32.2	89.1
Job not required	2	4	0.7	50.0
Students	11	218	3.6	5.0
Household Work	28	135	9.2	20.7
Pensioners	1	7	0.3	14.3
Too old to Work	2	3	0.7	66.7
Too Young to school	9	95	3.0	9.5
Disabled	2	3	0.7	66.7
Others	11	20	3.6	55.0
Total	304	3953	100.0	7.7

***K.C. Zachariah** is Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram and former Senior Demographer, The World Bank, Washington D.C.*

*Email: zachke@vsnl.com*

***S. Irudaya Rajan** is Professor at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. Currently he is Chair Professor of the Research Unit on International Migration set up by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. His main areas of research interests are Aging, Migration and Kerala Studies.*

*Email: rajan@cds.ac.in*

**APPENDIX I**

FSU Number

*Questionnaire Number*

**KERALA MIGRATION SURVEY 2008**

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA  
AND  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CDS)  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**RETURN EMIGRATION SURVEY, 2008  
Schedule II**

**SCHEDULE II. RETURN EMIGRANTS**

<b>BLOCK 1: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS</b>					
1.1	FSU Number		1.2	Schedule Serial Number	
1.3	Serial Number of the main module		1.4.	Tabulation Serial Number of the main module	
1.5.	Serial number of the return emigrant (from Schedule 1, block 2)		1.6.	Name (from Schedule 1, block 2)	

<b>BLOCK 2: STATUS AS ON THE EVE OF EMIGRATION</b>			
1.	Activity status on the eve of first emigration (Code: Use the same code as used in column 7 of Block 2 of the main schedule)		
2.	Income status on the eve of first emigration (annual income in Rs) – Report '0' if code 8 to 13 against item 1.		
3.	Reasons for the first emigration: Identify three most important reasons in the order of their importance. (Code: Get employment –1, Accumulate savings –2, Meet household expenditure –3, Marriage of siblings/children –4, Construction/purchase of house –5, Purchase of vehicle –6, Repay debts –7, Experience pleasure of travel – 8, Others –9)		
3.1	First priority		
3.2	Second priority		
3.3	Third priority		
Report the status on the following for the first and last episodes of emigration		First episode	Last episode
4.	Sources of information on emigration opportunity: (Code: News paper advertisement – 1, Advertisement in other mass media –2, Friends and relatives –3, Recruitment agencies – 4, Emigrants – 5, Foreign employment agents – 6, Individual agents – 7, Others – 8)		
5.	Year of emigration (yyyy)		
6.	Status in the household (Code: Head –1, Earning dependent –2, Non earning dependent –3)		
7.	Marital status on the eve of emigration (Code: Never married – 1, Currently married –2, Widowed –3, Divorced – 4, Separated - 5)		
8.	Channel through which the emigration took place (Code: Direct application –1, Govt. agencies –2, Licensed Recruiting Agencies - 3, Unlicensed Recruiting Agencies – 4, Relatives – 5, Friends – 6, Individual agents – 7, Others –8)		
9.	Name of the Country to which emigrated		
10.	Country Code		

BLOCK 2: STATUS AS ON THE EVE OF EMIGRATION (contd.)			First episode	Last episode
11.	Did you get pre emigration counseling (Code: Yes -1, No -2)			
12.	Type of visa obtained (Code: Employment visa -1, Visit Visa -2, Tourist visa -3, Pilgrimage visa -4, Others -5)			
13.	Did you sign an employment contract before emigration? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)			
14.	If yes to item 13, in which language the contract was prepared? (Code: English -1, Arabic -2, English and Arabic -3, Other languages -4, Don't know -5)			

BLOCK 3: EMIGRATION EXPERIENCE						
15	Emigration episode	Country to which emigrated (Use country code)	Period of stay (years)	Activity status (Use the code of column 7 of block 2 of the main schedule)	Annual Income (Rs)	Reasons for return (Code) *
15.1	1					
15.2	2					
15.3	3					
15.4	4					
15.5	5					
* (Code: Expiry of contract -1, Compulsory expatriation -2, Low wages -3, Ill health -4, Problems at home -5, Poor working conditions -6, Harsh behavior of employer -7, Hostile climate -8, Others -9)						
16. Cost of Emigration (Rs)					First episode	Last episode
16.1	Payment to recruiting agencies					
16.2	Payment to other intermediaries					
16.3	Passport					
16.4	Visa expenses					
16.5	Air ticket					
16.6	Emigration clearance					
16.7	Medical Test					
16.8	Loss due to fraud					
16.9	Others (specify)					
16.10	Total					
17. Sources of Financing emigration (Code: Yes -1, No -2)						
17.1.	Personal savings					
17.2.	Parents' savings					
17.3.	Other members of the family					
17.4.	Borrowing from friends and relatives					
17.5.	Loan from money lenders					
17.6.	Loan from Bank					
17.7.	Sale / mortgage of landed property					
17.8.	Sale / pledging of financial assets					
17.9	Sale / pledging of ornaments / jewellery etc.					
17.10	Govt. assistance					
17.11.	Other sources (specify)					

BLOCK 4. WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS ABROAD		
WORKING CONDITIONS	First episode	Last episode
18.	Problems faced at the time of arrival at the destination (Code: Yes -1, No - 2)	
18.1	With regard to passport	
18.2	With regard to visa	
18.3	With regard to work permit	
18.4	With regard to employment contract	
18.5	Others (specify)	
19.	Whom did you contact on arrival? (Code: Employer / employer's representative - 1, Friends - 2, Relatives - 3, Indian embassy officials - 4, Others - 5, None - 6)	
20.	Was the job received the same as the one promised at the time of recruitment? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
21.	Were you required to sign a new contract at the time of arrival? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
22.	Were you allowed to keep the passport and other documents with you? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
23.	Were the conditions of work agreeable to you? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
24.	How was the accommodation given to you by the employer ? (Code: Free - 1, Subsidized - 2, Normally priced -3, Exorbitantly priced - 4, No accommodation provided -5)	
25.	Were you required to share accommodation with others? (Code: Yes -1, No - 2, Not applicable - 3)	
26.	Was your accommodation satisfactory? (Code: Yes -1, No - 2, Not applicable - 3)	
27.	How was the food given to you by the employer ? (Code: Free - 1, Subsidized - 2, Normally priced -3, Exorbitantly priced - 4, No food provided -5)	
28.	Was the quality of food offered passable? (Code: Yes -1, No - 2, Not applicable - 3)	
29.	Medical facilities provided by the employer (Code: Good -1, Satisfactory - 2, Poor - 3, Not provided - 4)	
30.	Were religious practices permitted in the place where you lived? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
31.	Were facilities available in the place you lived to observe religious practices? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2)	
32.	Did your spouse accompany you? (Code: Yes - 1, No - 2, Not applicable - 3)	
33.	If yes to item 32, was your spouse employed at the destination? (Code: Yes -1, No - 2)	

<b>BLOCK 4. WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS ABROAD (contd.)</b>			
34.	If no to item 32, what was the main reason? (Code: Unwillingness of spouse -1, Spouse employed in India - 2, Responsibilities at home - 3, Permission not granted by India - 4, Desire to maximize savings - 5, Lack of accommodation -6, Inadequate income abroad -7, Others - 8)		
35.	Did you report your arrival at the Indian Embassy in the destination country? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)		
36.	Did you approach the Indian Embassy with any problem / complaint? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)		
37.	If yes to item 36, nature of the problem (Code Yes -1, No -2)		
37.1.	Grievances against employer		
37.2.	Problems of pay		
37.3.	Problems of communication		
37.4.	Harassment from local police/public		
37.5.	Other (specify)		
38.	If yes to 37.1 to 37.4, did you receive positive response from the Indian embassy officials? (Code Yes -1, No -2)		
39.	Your average monthly income (Rs)		
40.	Your average monthly living expenses (Rs)		
41.	Your average monthly home remittances (Rs)		
42.	Your average monthly savings (Rs)		
43.	Who was managing household affairs during your employment abroad? (Code: Spouse - 1, Parents - 2, Siblings - 3, Children -4, In laws -5, Other (specify) - 6)		
44.	To whom did you use to send regular remittances? (Code: Spouse - 1, Parents - 2, Children - 3, In laws - 4, Other (specify) - 5)		
45.	How did you send money home? (Code: Mail transfer -1, Bank deposits - 2, Friends / relatives - 3, During home visits - 4, Hawala - 5, Other means (specify) - 6)		
46.	Did your household face the following problems during your absence? (Code Yes -1, No -2)		
46.1.	Prolonged Illness		
46.2.	Death of family members		
46.3.	Loss of assets		
46.4.	Threats to personal safety		
46.5.	Litigation		
46.6.	Poverty / Deprivation		
46.7.	Children's behavioral issues		
46.8.	Others (specify)		

<b>BLOCK 5. POST RETURN PHASE</b>		
47.	Year of return from your last emigration episode (yyyy)	
48.	Reasons for return (Code: Expiry of contract -1, Compulsory expatriation -2, Low wages -3, Ill health -4, Problems at home -5, Poor working conditions -6, Harsh behavior of employer -7, Hostile climate -8, Others -9)	
49.	Were skills acquired from work abroad? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)	
49.1	Technical skill	
49.2	Managerial / Supervisory	
49.3	Accounting	
49.4	Housekeeping	
49.5	Marketing / trading skills	
49.6	Navigation skills (driving, sailing etc)	
49.7	Leadership/organizational skills	
49.8	Financial management skills	
49.9	Others (specify)	
50.	Identify the forms in which you kept your savings? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)	
50.1	Bank deposits	
50.2	Shares/ debentures	
50.3	Gold/Jewellery	
50.4	Mutual funds	
50.5	Invested with private financiers	
50.6	Invested with money lenders	
50.7	Others (specify)	
51.	Have you invested / spent your earnings in the following forms? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)	
51.1	Agricultural land	
51.2	Real estate	
51.3	Residential / Non residential buildings	
51.4	Transport vehicles	
51.5	Education of children	
51.6	Medical treatment of family members	
51.7	Marriage of sisters / daughters etc	
51.8	Business enterprises	
51.9.	Repayment of debts	
51.10.	Others (specify)	
52.	Activity status (use the same code as in column 7 of block 2 of the main schedule)	
If working (code 1 to 7 against item 52 report data against items 53 and 54		
53.	Nature of employment (Code: Regular -1, Temporary -2, Casual -3)	
54.	Sector in which engaged (Code: Agriculture / Animal husbandry / Fishing / mining -1, Manufacturing -2, Construction -3, Transport -4, Trade -5, Hotels and restaurant -6, Communication -7, Personal services -8, Other services -9)	
55.	If self-employed (Code 4 against item 52), nature of self-employment (Code: Own account worker -1, Employer -2, Both -3)	
If code 2 or 3 against item 55 report data for items 56 to 62.		
56.	Year of starting the enterprise (yyyy)	

<b>BLOCK 5. POST RETURN PHASE (contd.)</b>			
57.	Number of persons working in the enterprise		
57.1	Unpaid household workers		
57.2	Apprentices		
57.3	Paid employees		
58.	Nature of activity of the enterprise (Code: Processing of agricultural produce – 1, Repair workshop –2, Production of handicraft / pottery etc. –3, Transport / Communication services – 4, Trading establishment – 5, Hotel / restaurant – 6, Personal services – 7, Others – 8)		
59.	Identify the motive for starting the enterprise (Code: Yes –1, No –2)		
59.1	Desire to be financially independent		
59.2	Finding jobs for members of the family		
59.3	Perpetuation of the family business		
59.4	Access to rawmaterials		
59.5	Access to markets for the outputs		
59.6	Experience /expertise gained abroad		
59.7	Incentives from government		
59.8	Others (specify)		
<b>Performance of the Enterprise</b>			
60	Particulars	At the beginning	At present
60.1	Number of workers		
60.2	Size of the unit in terms of capital (Code: Rs < 1 lakh – 1, 1 to 5 lakhs – 2, 5 – 10 lakhs – 3, More than 10 lakhs – 4)		
60.3	Annual turn over (Rs)		
60.4	Annual net profit (Rs)		
61.	Did you get public support in starting your enterprise? (Code: Yes –1, No –2)		
62.	If code 1 to item 61, report the type of support received		
If unemployed at present (code 8 against item 52) report data for items 63 and 64.			
63.	Have you pursued an economic activity at any time in the past after return ? (Code: Yes –1, No –2)		
64.	If yes, how did that activity terminate? (Code: Employer terminated job –1, Employer closed / shifted business – 2, Left the job on account of low remuneration –3, Left due to ill-health - 4, Old age – 5, Decided to start own business – 6, Others – 7)		

<b>BLOCK 6: FUTURE PLANS</b>		
65.	What is your future plan? (Report response in terms of code: Yes -1, No -2)	
65.1	Start a new business	
65.2	Take up employment	
65.3	Re-emigrate	
65.4	Retired from work	
65.5	Others (specify)	
66.	Do you think that the government has to pay more attention to the rehabilitation of return emigrants? (Code: Yes -1, No -2)	
67.	If yes to item 66 what are the areas ?	

<b>BLOCK 7. REMARKS OF THE INVESTIGATOR</b>	
Name of the Investigator	Date of Interview

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