

1: Remittances to Kerala: Impact on the Economy | Middle East Institute

This article reviews the economic and social consequences of labor migration from Kerala to the Gulf Region. In India, Kerala is both the major source of migrant workers and the primary recipient of workers' remittances.

Background[edit] There are both economic and social imbalances among states in India and this leads to internal migration in general. High literacy rates, better education and lack of professional and skilled jobs had prompted Keralites to look for higher wages and skilled labour outside India. This trend then led to a decline in the availability of workforce in Kerala especially in unskilled jobs. Kerala has the lowest population growth rate in the country and is set to become the first state with zero population growth, or even with a negative growth rate. In less than a decade, the Keralite population is set to decrease. Therefore, with an ageing population like in Europe combined with the tendency of youth migrating abroad, the shortage of workers is bound to increase. Studies[edit] According to a study, Kerala is not able to create enough jobs that are suitable for an increasingly larger number of young people with high levels of education. Although lack of jobs was the main reason for migration of Keralites before , the notion of higher wages abroad has gained traction among Keralites even though currently the wages obtained in Kerala have become similar to those obtained abroad in many cases. This is an important factor in their decision to emigrate instead of working in the state. Migration therefore also takes place either because the locals have priced themselves out of the informal service sector, or, as in big cities like Mumbai, they have placed some tasks beneath them and migrants fill the gap. The number of migrant workers in Kerala is much larger compared to only 16 lakh 1. It is estimated to rise as high as 48 lakhs 4. Besides, within 10 years, the majority of the local population would have aged above 40 years and this could lead to a further increase of migration from other states. Kerala model Kerala offers the best wage rates in the country in the unorganised sector. Sustained job opportunities, comparatively peaceful social environment, relatively less discriminatory treatment of workers, presence of significant others, direct trains from native states, the ease with which the money they earn can be transferred home and the penetration of mobile phones cutting short the distance from homes influenced the migration to Kerala. Manav Paul, the push factors are mostly poverty, unemployment, density of population, bad yield from agriculture, low demand for labourers and other factors like raising up families, lack of civil activities in the residential area, disasters, wars, internal fights on basis of caste, creed, race affect the flow of migrants to Kerala. Pull factors like better employment opportunities, standard of life in Kerala, high wages compared to other states, lesser communal clashes, high health indices, and provision of education for children also attract migrants to Kerala, [15] as well as an ongoing labor shortage in Kerala and greater healthcare availability. However, despite these motivations, migrants often find that they are unable to access the same benefits as locals. Low wages, limited and irregular employment opportunities, failed crops, family debts and drought have been some of the major reasons that have pushed many people to leave their homes in search of jobs in Kerala too. Footloose labourers from Tamil Nadu have been lamenting about the lack of rains in their native place due to which agriculture is in a crisis. Workers from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and those from northern Karnataka were severely hit by drought. The major source areas from where workers come to Kerala are known for floods, cyclones as well as drought. In addition to these typical reasons, several workers from the eastern and northeastern states of India have cited political instability, caste oppressions and communal violence in their native places as reasons for migration. The enforcement of Foreigners Act by the current government in Assam has accentuated the movement of undocumented migrants from Bangladesh in Assam to Kerala. In the absence of the availability of native labour due to the demographic advancement and the resultant changes in the age structure of the population, the state is almost completely dependent on migrant labour. The high wage rates and the sustainable job opportunities have made Kerala one of the most sought after destinations in the country. Political stability, the comparatively peaceful social environment, and the relatively less discriminatory treatment meted out to migrants compared to many other potential destinations, also serve as additional pull factors. The Muslim and Christian migrants feel quite comfortable in the state compared to other parts of India which is a significant reason for Kerala being chosen as their work

destination. Hindi and Odiya services are offered for the Christian migrants in select areas in Kerala, and Muslim labourers tend to live in areas with significant presence of native Muslim community. Some of the migrants who have come to Kerala with their families cited the availability of better educational and health facilities in Kerala as an additional impetus for sticking on here. The high minimum wages with comparatively better living conditions in Kerala, even in villages, are often what motivates migrant workers, as the wages are often double or even more than three times than wages obtained in other major cities in India, which also have higher living costs. The lowest wage being paid in the country was Rs In states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Odisha, workers are usually paid wages of around rupees, but which can be as low as 90 rupees. The wages for non-agricultural work is also much higher in Kerala. Carpenters and plumbers get wages which are two times the national wage average for their profession. The data shows that while the average wage ranges are between Rs and Rs for different professions in states across the country, employers in Kerala do not pay below Rs for any job. Even though the wages for labour are high, the cost of living in the state is the same or even lower than in many other parts of the country. Over 70 per cent of them earn wages above Rs. Even though the rate has declined over the years, 50 lakh 5 million people are estimated to be unemployed in the state. The unemployment rate is lowest in Gujarat, at 0. However, Gujarat is a low-paying state on daily wages. Reading the two reports together, one can infer that while migrant labourers are attracted by the high daily wages, the natives are not opting for these jobs. Literacy and higher levels of education too has contributed to this attitude of considering some jobs as not respectable enough for a highly educated person. These high inward remittances have increased the demand of local labour. According to a study conducted by GIFT, the migrant labourers in Kerala send their homes approximately crore rupees. These remittances are almost entirely sent home via bank services. Although a large number of the children of migrant workers are enrolled in government schools, the state education department has opened schools for the children of migrant workers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Region specific teaching curriculum has to be often adopted as the origin and languages of migrants always differ. The department also plans to start kiosks and call centres with people proficient in Hindi as staff to interact and understand the problems of the labourers. While the bigger cities Trivandrum and Kochi continue to attract the largest number of migrants, smaller cities like Calicut and Quilon also have a sizeable number of migrant workers. According to the study, which was based on a Survey of the Domestic Migrant Labour coming into and leaving Kerala, the remittances of migrant workers in Kerala to their home states are over Rs. According to a study commissioned by the government, every fourth male between the ages of 20 and 64 in the state is likely to be a migrant. Whereas 60 per cent of them work in the construction sector, they also work in the hospitality, manufacturing, trade and agriculture sectors. Their skills range from unskilled to skilled carpenters, masons, electricians and the like. Around 30, migrants have settled down permanently at Trivandrum and Kochi. In industries such as cashew, hotels, brick kilns, construction, quarries and fishing; their daily wages range from to rupees. Although a few studies say that labourers from neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka far outnumber the others, the cultural similarities with Kerala makes them well integrated with the local population. There were specific sectors where migrant labourers were largely absorbed. The plantations, the brick kilns, and work requiring digging up earth predominantly depended on migrant labour. Even though there are still a large number of workers from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the trend in replacement labour seems to have reversed [43] as according to the survey in , 75 per cent of the migrant workers come from five states, namely West Bengal , Bihar , Assam , Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. The languages seems to have found ground in Kerala with many shops advertising themselves also in Hindi and instances of local transport buses displaying destination names in Bengali and even Oriya. Tamil Nadu continues to be one of the major sources of footloose labour in Kerala. More than four-fifths of these districts belonged to eight Indian states. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the south, Uttar Pradesh in the north, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal in the east and Assam in the northeast India were the major states of origin of migrant workers. Boys from Nagaland were found working in the hospitality sector. Labourers from Rajasthan sold gadgets at busy traffic junctions in Kochi. Men and boys from Delhi worked in the saloons. Men and women from Andhra Pradesh sought work from Kochi city labour nakas. Workers from Madhya Pradesh were found in the plantations. Women workers from Maharashtra were found

in Kasaragod. There were also workers from Nepal and Bangladesh.

2: Migrant labour makes an impact - KERALA - The Hindu

a survey of 10, households in Kerala, the article presents the economic impacts of labor migration in terms of housing quality and amenities and ownership of consumer durables.

Impact on the Economy Remittances to Kerala: In many developing countries, remittances represent a significant proportion of the Gross Domestic Product GDP as well as foreign exchange earning. The flow of about Rs. It is important to state Based on a total population of 30, crores in Kerala in , the remittance of Rs. Remittances thus make a substantial contribution to the annual income of the households in Kerala. Remittances also are associated with the macroeconomic indicators of the state. The per capita income of the state excluding remittances stood at Rs. Remittances in Kerala were 5. Remittances to Kerala were 36 times the export earnings from cashews and 30 times that from marine products. Looking at the breakdown of the total remittance of Rs. The average remittances per household was Rs. The proportion of households that received remittances was even smaller. The Kerala Migration Survey estimated that only Muslim households received the largest proportion of remittances and Hindu households, the smallest. Total remittances by district are given in Figure 3. Remittances vary considerably among districts. Malappuram district leads with a total of Rs. The average remittance per household in Malappuram was more than Rs. The other districts with high average remittance per household were Thrissur, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, and Kozhikode. The average remittances per household in Idukki district were less than a tenth of the state average for Pathanamthitta, Kollam, and Kozhikode. The average remittances per household in Idukki district was less than a tenth of the state average. **Conclusion** The impact of remittances on Kerala is manifested in household consumption, saving and investment, the quality of houses, and the possession of modern consumer durables. Remittances also play a major role in enhancing the quality of life and contribute to a high human development index for Kerala in terms of education and health, along with the reduction of poverty and unemployment. The Gulf, which is home to a large majority of emigrants from Kerala, has figured prominently in this equation. Irudaya Rajan and D.

3: Migrant labourers in Kerala - Wikipedia

Migration from Kerala to the other states in India and to countries outside has now become so rampant that its impact is felt in every aspect of life in the State.

June 27, October 09, Malayalis have a long track record of migration to other States as well as foreign countries. The economy of Kerala gets considerable support from the earnings of the migrant population, especially of those working in Gulf countries and Europe. The State has had abundant manpower, both skilled and unskilled, for being deployed in other parts of India and abroad. But, of late, Kerala has been witnessing migration of a different kind – hundreds of workers reaching the State from other States. The phenomenon has arisen out of the need for more labour in the State, especially in cities such as Kochi that are witnessing a boom in development activities. The reluctance of the average Malayali to take up manual labour has turned out to be a boon to the migrants from across the borders. Most of these migrants belong to the unskilled category. They are mainly employed as casual labour or on daily wages in hotels, construction industry and the transport sector. The number of migrants has increased phenomenally and there is a dire need to implement laws that ensure their welfare. Several trade unions have already urged the government to frame a policy on migrant labour. The issue was raised at a recent meeting organised by the Industrial Department with trade union leaders in Kochi. Though the Labour Department has been monitoring the situation, more needs to be done. Rules pertaining to the contract workers and regulations on inter-State migrant workers are applied by the department to ensure welfare of the migrant workers. Periodic inspections are carried out by the department to find out violation of rules. Contractors are bound to provide accommodation and medical facilities. One per cent of the cost of the construction project has to be deposited with the department by the contractor towards the welfare fund for the workers. Similarly, the regulations pertaining to migrant workers maintain that Rs. The sum will be spent for the welfare activities of migrant labour whenever need arises, according to Labour Department officials. One of the major problems faced by migrant labour is the lack of adequate residential amenities. With the rents shooting up in cities such as Kochi, the struggle for survival would be more difficult for the migrants. The situation will lead to the springing up of slums in street corners. Migrant labour getting involved in criminal activities is another concern for the authorities. While the existing rules and regulations perform a key role in ensuring justice to the migrants, there is a need for more measures. Girls as young as years are trafficked within the countries and across borders. Though women constitute a big section of the working class and face innumerable problems, this is not reflected in their presence in trade unions – Very few trade unions address the specific problems of working women like equal wages, maternity benefits, child care facilities, toilets and rest rooms.

4: Economic results of migration - Wikipedia

to Kerala and the socio-economic impact. Causes of Migration to Kerala – One of the most striking characteristics of migrant labour in Kerala is their.

5: Impact of migration on Kerala's economy and society

labourers in to the labour market of Kerala was a relief to the manual labour deficit market and they 'supply cheaper labour force in the labour market. Migrant workers engage in almost all activities as engaged by native workers.

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