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Covid 19 and its Implications for Gulf Migrants: Some Reflections from Kerala

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Abstract: ***Covid 19 Has Primarily Affected Gulf Migrants Specifically To Developing Countries Like India. Kerala Is One Of India's Most Popular Immigration Destinations, And Migrant Workers Account For A Sizable Portion Of The State's Workforce. Because Of High Pay Levels And Growing Demand For Manual Labour Jobs, Migrant Workers Appear To Be In All Occupations And Sectors Of The Regional Economy. The Article Also Aims To Explore And Evaluate The State's Response To The Covid 19 Crisis. Kerala's Efforts To Address The Pandemic Demonstrate That They Have Been Innovative And Exceptional. Even So, Many Immigrants Are Ignorant And Work Primarily In The Informal Or Unorganised Sector In Gulf. The Return Migrants Once Were The Backbone Of Kerala Economy Has Changed To A Side-Lined Community All Of A Sudden. They Are Not Organised And Are Neither In A Position To Negotiate For Their Rights Nor Labour Standards. Even After The Migration Period, The Life Of Gulf Migrants Is Filled With Troubles And Diseases; Thus, They Lead Their Lives Without The Care Of Extended Family Members Or The State. These Migrants Face Similar Social And Economic Challenges Once They Lose The Tag Of Breadwinners For The Family. The Study Exclusively Focuses On The Socio-Economic Life- Social Networks Of These Migrants Who Are Dumped By The State And Society And Excluded From Society's Socio-Cultural Frame. The Present Research Will Help Frame New Policies For The Betterment Of Return Migrants Who Worked In GCC Countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar And The UAE). The Study Gives A Better Outlook For The Life Of Return Migrants' In Kerala, Especially In Covid 19 Scenario.***

Keywords: ***Covid 19, Gulf Migration, Return Migrants, Gulf Money, Problems and Prospects Kerala.***

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Severe Widespread Corona Viral Pandemic Has Been Occurring In the World since December 2019. In Most Countries Around The Globe, Containment And Quarantine Are Being Implemented (Stawicki Et Al., 2020). Over 215 Countries Worldwide Have Reached COVID-19. The COVID-19 Has Brought About Numerous Current Challenges, Including Health, Transport, The Economy, Finance, Employment And Unemployment, Prices, Emigration And Transfer, The Economic Situation And So On In Different Sectors Of The Society (Khan Et Al., 2021). The Emergence Of The COVID-19 Pandemic Has Seriously Affected The Key International Immigration Corridors Such As India, High Labour Emigrating Developing Country, Which People Primarily Migrate To Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) (Rajan, 2020, Abella And Sasikumar, 2020). According To Press Reports On Indian Emigrant Workers And Significant Recruiters In The Middle East, It Shows A Desire To Return To Their Homeland. The World Migration Report 2020 States That India Has Many Foreign Emigrants Worldwide (Ullah, 2020). Of The 272 Million Foreign Migrants' Overall Population, Almost 6 Per Cent (17 Million) Of The General Population Of 272 Million Migrants Are Indians, 3 Million Of Them Migrate From Kerala. As The Gulf Countries Slowly Lockdown Non-Essential Industries, Migrants Were Facing the Loss Of Jobs And Income And Were Desperate To Return To Their Country. Many Have Been Born, Particularly In Kerala, In 2019-20, Which Has Led To An Increase In Covid-19 Instances. Kerala's Active International Migratory Network With The COVID-19 Issue Was Returned In Large Numbers; More Than 15 Lakh Gulf Migrants Returned To Kerala During 2020 (Isaac And Sadanandan, 2020). The Study Attempts To Understand the Patterns Of Movement And Repatriation Of Gulf Expatriates From Kerala,

Covid 19 and Its Impact on Return Gulf Migration

The Number Of Individuals Who Returned From Destination Countries Was Significantly Huge During The Covid 19 Crises. Nearly 90 Per Cent Of The Emigrants From Kerala Migrate To The Gulf. The Most Significant Proportion Of Kerala Migrants Is 39 Per Cent In The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Whereas, In Saudi Arabia, 23 Percent Are Kerala Migrants. Almost 20 Percent Of Kerala Expatriates Are From Oman And Qatar. Due To Changing Labour Regulations, Most Return Migrants Are From Saudi Arabia, Followed By The UAE And Oman.

Table 1: Percentage of Return Migrants by Destination Countries and Non-Resident Keralites Returned From May -2020 to July 2021

Countries	Percentage Of Migrants Returned	No Of Non-Resident Keralites Returned From May -2020 To July 2021
United Arab Emirates	59.3	8,90,485

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Saudi Arabia	11.5	1,73,561
Qatar	9.93	1,47,917
Oman	9.08	1,36,445
Kuwait	3.46	52,032
Bahrain	2.94	44,246
GCC Countries	96.2	14,44,686
Non-Gulf Countries	3.79	56,640
Total	100	15,01,326

Source: Data Were Taken From the Department Of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA); This Has Been Reported In Indian Express-News, 5th July 2021 Table 1 Reflects The Six Key Destination Countries Representing More Than Four Percent Of The World's Total Covid 19 Cases. Saudi Arabia And Qatar Mainly Influence It. By The First Week Of January 2021, 8.7 Lakh Such People Had Come Back, But By 3rd July 2021, The Count Crossed 15,01, 326, According To The Latest Data From The Non-ResidentKeralites Affairs (NORKA) Department. Most Alarmingly, More Than 10 Lakh Of Returned Migrants Have Faced Job Loss As The Reason For Their Return To The State. According To NORKA, From The More Than 15 Lakh Returnees, 10,73,673 Reportedly Returned After They Lost Work, 2,96,240 Had Expired Visas, 84,154 Were Minors Less Than Ten Years Of Age. Senior Citizens Are 30,704 Nrks, 13,641 Are Pregnant Women And, 2,914 Are Spouses Of Pregnant Women (Philip, 2021). More Than 70 Percent Of The Overall Return Migration Was Mainly From The UAE And Saudi Arabia, Which Is Followed By Qatar (9.93%), Oman(9.08%), Kuwait (3.46%) And Bahrain (2.94%).

Return Migration During The Pandemic And Challenges

As The Middle East Is Steadily Closing Down Non-Essential Sectors, Migrants Desperately Search For Employment And Better-Earning Opportunities. Many Of These Have Led, Particularly In The Following Months, To An Upsurge In COVID-19 Cases. Data From The KMS (2018) Reveals That Malappuram Is One Of The Top Emigrating And Return Migration Rankings (Table 2). In Comparison To The Other Districts, However, Like The Other Districts, Kannur, Thrissur, Ernakulam Have Fair Significant Migratory Connections With The United Arab Emirates And Saudi Arabia (Worst Affected In The GCC). Table 2 Reveals That 24 Out Of 100 Families In Kerala Have One Migrant, With Malappuram, A Wise District, Contributing 20 Percent Of The Entire Kerala Migrant Population To The Middle East With 40 Out Of 100 Households. Besides That, Far More Than 30 Out Of 100 Homes With Migrants Outside, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Ernakulam And Kannur. Trivandrum Follows The Highest Number Of Return Migrants In The District Of Malappuram And Wayanad In Idukki. Malappuram Again Has Houses For 24Per Cent Of The Total State Returns, Out Of 100. Most Of The Emigrants Had Returned After Just One Episode Of Migration, And The Average Duration Period

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Abroad Was Seven Years (KMS Report 2020).

Table 2: District Wise Percentage of Migrants, Return Migrants In Kerala

Top 5 Districts In Kerala Where Return Migration Is Highly Visible.	Percentage Of Emigrants	percent of ReturnMigrants
Malappuram	19.1	23.9
Kollam	11.3	12.8
Kozhikode	7.6	11.7
Ernakulam	7.9	7.9
Kannur	11.8	7.3
Total Of The Above 5 Districts	**57.7**	**62.9**
Other 9 Districts*	42.3	37.1
Total (Kerala)	**100**	**100**

Source: Kerala Migration Surveys 2008, 2018

*Other 9 Districts Include Trivandrum, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Trissur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Kasaragod.

Above Table 2 Illustrates The District-Wise Analysis Of Emigration And Return Migration Of Expatriates From Different Districts Of Kerala. It Is Noted That Malappuram District (23.9 %) Has A More Significant Number Of Return Migrants In The State. It Has Been Followed By Kollam (12.8%), The Third Highest Number Is Followed By Calicut (11.7%), And Then Followed By Ernakulam (7.9 %) And Kannur (7.3%). It Has To Be Noted That Top 5 Districts Have Been Taken For The Present Study's Analysis. In The Last Few Months, Covid Has Been A More Significant Challenge To More Than 15 Lakh Nrks Working Overseas Indians Who Have Been Returned To Kerala (Chathukulam And Tharamangalam, 2021). There Is A Big Challenge In Losing The Jobs And Earnings Of Kerala Expatriates N Large Numbers. Take Malappuram's Case, And An NRK Household Is One In Three Homes Here. It Has About Four Lakhs And Receives 21 Percent Of The Total Payments Of Kerala. However, The Inflow Of Returning Citizens Is Also The Highest – About A Quarter, With Approximately One In Four Households Returning (Zachariah And Rajan, 2011). Migration Is Not A Unique Phenomenon In Kerala; It Also Concerns Migrants' Families, As Migrant Families In Kerala Depend For A Long Time On Migrants To Meet The Daily Needs Of These Families Of Expatriates Residing In Kerala (Osella And Osella, 2008, Ilias, 2015). It Will Impact Migrants Or Households That Rely On Gulf Money, And It Will Ultimately Affect The Government Economy State GDP Directly. Migrants And Transfer Funds Are

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Interconnected. Remittances Are Kerala's Economic Lifeline And Have Increased Significantly In The Last Few Decades. But The Pandemic's Actual Global Economic Slowdown Will Result In The Loss Of Money. It Is Estimated That 25% Of Annual Remittances To Kerala Will Decline Since The Crisis Increased, And The Survival For Worries Are Increasing Day By Day Even Further (Oommen, 2020). The Majority Of Returning Migrants Are Engaged As Work Part-Time Or Full-Time. Return Migrants' Studies Indicate That Over A Fifth Of Return Migrants Are Jobless. Likewise, They Earn Just A Tiny Amount Of Monthly Income Through Self-Employment And Salary Jobs. Studies Show That 40 Percent Of Returning Emigrants In Gulf Countries Have Not Improved Their Socio-Economic Status Due To Emigration. There Have Been Facing Many Financial Issues Caused By Two-Thirds Of Households (Rajan, 2020). Similarly, Household Movement Creates Social Tension And Challenges For Returning Emigrant Households. Emigration Affected Academics And Children's Development And Generated Emotional Stress And Difficulties For Emigrant Women (Osella And Osella, 2008). Emigration Affects Children's Formation. Returned Emigrants Also Feel Alienated Because Of Departure From Society (Kurien, 2002). Return Emigration Also Leads To A Light Or Moderate Economic Slowdown In Places With High Levels Of Immigrant Households Experienced In The Time Of The Recession (2008), And Mainly By Covid 19 (2020) (Rasgul, G Et Al., 2021).

Characteristics of Return Migrants

Return Emigrants Were Primarily Aged Over 35, Men And Women By Age, Sex, Marital Status And Education. But The Number Of Females Returning Emigrants Increased Considerably Amid The Economic And Covid Crisis (Zachariah And Rajan,2012), (Sulaiman Et Al., 2021). Contrary To The First Time They Had Migrated, They Were Not Married, While More Than 80 Percentage Are Married. Compared With Highly-Educated Expatriates, They Seem To Enjoy Better Living Standards Than Numbers Of Returning Migrants With Poor Education, Such As Elementary, Secondary, And Secondary Education. Based On Religious Classification, 44 Percent Of The Total Muslims, 39 Percent Of Hindus And 16percent Of Total Respondents Were Christians (Zachariah Et Al. 2015). The Research Offers An Interdisciplinary Policy Framework That Includes All The Problems Of Returning Emigrants, Including Information-Based Policies, Financial Support Systems, And Institutional Policies. (Sulaiman Et Al, 2021, Jabir, 2014, Ansari, 2021). While Migrants' Homes Have Gained Unique Talents While Working In Other Countries, Another Factor In Emigration Is Positive (Skeldon, 2008). These Include Varied Approaches, Marketing Knowledge, Management/Control Skills And Financial Management Skills. The Trends And Patterns Of Return Migration, Geographical Comparisons And Impediments And Challenges Of Return Migration, Integration Into Communities And Families, And The Lack Of Opportunities And Problems And Difficulties At The Place Of Origin Are Not Researched Very Extensively (Arowolo, 2000).

2. OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Objectives Of The Study Are As Follows:

1. To Understand The Social And Economic Challenges Faced By Returned Migrants Back In Kerala

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2. To Analyse The Impact Of Covid 19 On The Gulf Expatriates From Kerala
3. To Suggest The Best Policies For The Betterment Of Returned Migrants In The State.

Research Methodology: And Secondary Methods Were Used For The Present Study. The Primary Data Was Collected Through Observation Methods And Interview Schedules, Primarily Through Telephonic Interviews That Last More Than One Hour. To Record Their Observations and Capture Crucial Insights Into The Reality On The Ground, The Primary Source Of Data Has Been Collected As Follows;

Participant Observation: A Participant Observation Was Done To Understand The Impact Of Covid 19 On The Life Of Return Migrants In The Home State. While Interacting With Their Family Members, Ethnographic Observation Has Been Undertaken After Considering The Covid Protocols. It Also Helped The Researcher To Understand The Socio-Economic Challenges And Issues Of Return Migrants In Kerala.

Scheduled Method: A Semi-Structured Interview Schedule Was Developed To Understand The Problems And Prospects Of Gulf Return Migrants, Especially During Covid 19. A Random Snowball Sampling Was Taken To Determine The Initial Respondents And Move Towards The Other Gulf Return Migrants. It Is To Be Noted That Some Of The Respondents Have Been Affected By Covid 19; The Researchers Had Opted For A Telephonic Survey Which Lasts Between 60-90 Minutes. Most Of The Respondents Were Supportive And Willing To Share All The Challenges They Faced During The Covid 19. The Schedule Questions Had Included The Questions Related To The Impact Of Covid On The Occupation, Socio-Economic Life, Socio-Political Life. The Study Has Analysed Significant Issues Such As Wage Theft, Socio-Economic Profile, Occupation Of Respondents In The Gulf, Issues And Challenges Faced By Covid 19, Reasons For Return Migration, Etc.

3. METHOD OF SAMPLING: PURPOSIVE SAMPLING

The Researcher Has Followed Purposive Sampling, A Specific Type Of Non-Probability Sampling Method That Relies On Data Collection, Purely Selecting Samples Based On Knowledge Of The Research Problem To Include An Appropriate Sample. The Researcher Tries To Cover The Population Sample From The Returned Migrants Due To Covid 19 Engaged In Different GCC Countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar And The UAE). For The Present Study, Amidst Along With the Covid 19 Protocols. The Researcher Has Gone To The Participants' Homes And Places They Are Available And Personally Met By The Researcher According To The Convenience Of The Respondents. Some Of The Researchers Have Been Contacted Through Telephonic Interviews At Their Convenience. The Sample Will Be Exclusively Focused On The Gulf Return Migrants Who Are Impacted By Covid 19. In This Way, 200 Gulfs Returned Migrant Workers Were Selected From The Migrant Pockets Of Ernakulam (Cochin) And Malappuram Districts In Kerala, Especially From The Return Migrant Pockets Who Are Adversely Affected By Covid 19.

Impact of Covid 19 on the Life of Gulf Migrants

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The Present Study Focuses On The Social And Economic Impact On The Life Of Gulf Returned Migrants In Kerala. In This Study, The Researcher Tries To Understand The Adverse Impacts, Issues And Challenges Faced By The Gulf Return Migrant Workers. A Total Of 200 Respondents Were Selected Through A Purposive Sampling Method For This Study. An Equal Number Of Men And Women Were Selected From The Migrant Pockets Of Kerala, Especially From Malappuram And Ernakulam (Cochin), When Large Scale Gulf Return Migrants Are Highly-Visible. The Details of The Study Are Discussed As Follows:

Occupation of the Respondents

Gulf Migration Has Become A Popular Process In Kerala; Since The 1980s, GCC Countries' Oil Boom And Prosperity Have Attracted People Worldwide, Especially In India. It Has Attracted A Large Number Of Malayalee Pravasi's (Osella And Osella, 2006). The Higher Wages And Social Status Comparable To Native States Brought Many Skilled Migrants From Kerala To Gulf. (Rajan And Akhil, 2019, Ansari, 2021). The Profession These Migrant Workers Performed In The Gulf Before Returning Home Is Discussed As Follows.

Table 3, Occupation Engaged By Number of Expatriates In The Gulf.

Occupation	Districts		Total	Percent
	Ernakulam	Malappuram		
Accountant	7	8	15	7.5
Business(Small Shops/Small Business)	15	15	30	15
Driver	12	15	27	13.5
House Servant	10	12	22	11
Home Nurse/ Nurse	8	8	16	8
Cook	15	10	25	12.5
Electrician	8	10	18	9
Construction	15	10	25	12.5
Super Market/ Sales	10	12	22	11
Grand Total	**100**	**100**	**200**	**100**

Source: Based On The Study Conducted During 2021-22**.**

The Maximum Number Of Expatriates Would Have Only Migrated Without Much Planning. Although With A Light Of Optimism For Better Income And Mode Of Living (Rahman, 2020). While There Were Difficulties And Troubles Was Always The After Effects, Especially In Jobs Abroad. In Comparison, 15 Percent Of Migrants Opened Up A Small Shop Or Started A Small Business To Run Their Daily Needs, Even They Have To Pay A Good Investment To Start A Business. At The Same Time, 7.5 Percent Of Workers Engaged As Accountants In Private Companies Seems To Better Than Our Physical Jobs; 13.5 Per Cent Of Respondents Were Drivers And Had To Work The Whole Day. At The Same Time, 11 Percent Were Housekeepers Who Care For Babies And Elderly Families While Employers Go From Home. While 9 Percent Worked As Electricians, 12.5 Percent Of Total Worked In Construction And 11 Percent Of Workers Engaged In Supermarkets And Other Sales. These Employees Had More Than 12 Hours To Spend And Battle Abroad To Earn Their

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Livelihoods. Previous Literature Such As Rajan Et Al 2020, Sulaiman Et Al, 2020, And Ansari 2021 Supports This Study.

Case Study 1: Teresa Age 37-Year-Old Lady Based In Cochin.
Because Of The Covid 19 Shutdown In Gulf, I Had To Shut My Business And Return In 2019 From Kuwait, Where I Started A Small Business There Investing 10 Lakh Rupees. Later On, Reaching Kerala With A Lot Of Dreams And Hops In My Late 30's. After The Initial Investment Of 20 Lakhs, I Managed To Buy And Maintain A Container Truck Paid Better. While, Some Dirty, Petty Political Players Interfered For Small Commissions And Were Losing After All Charges Like Taxes, Driver Charges, Insurance, Tyres Maintenance, Brokerage, Legacy Payment, Etc. I Was Compelled To Sell It Subsequently With A 9-Lakh Deficit. After That, A Great Business Began With A Supermarket In Cochin, Chellanam, Area With My Friends. And There, I Dropped More Than Ten Lakhs With All My Savings From Kuwait. Now I've Financed All The Savings That I Earned From Gulf, Now Running On My Bank Loans, Challenging To Meet The Daily Needs Of My Family And Myself. No Earnings Or Savings Left With Me; I Am Not Much Hopeful And Looking Forward To Moving To AnyOther Country To Earn Better And Pay Off All My Debts.

Reasons for Return Migration
Different Pull Forces and Push Factors Force Workers To Relocate To Destinations Such As Gulf To Their Home State (. The Interviews With Expatriates From The Gulf Region Hails From Kerala Indicated Several Driving Causes Behind Migration. Each Of These Explanations Can Be Directly Or Indirectly Related To The Primary Motivating Factors Discussed Below, Although Several Reasons Are Claimed To Be Contributed By Migrant Workers.

Table 4: Reasons for Return Migration

Reason For Return Migration	**No Of Respondents**	**Percentage**
Covid 19 Impact (Job Loss, Salary Cut, Etc. ..)	90	45
Low Wages	20	10
Expiry Of Contract – Did Not Renew Due To Covid Economic Reasons.	10	5
Nationalization	30	15
Poor Working Conditions	10	5
Issues At Home	10	5
Harsh Behavior Of Employer	20	10
Ill Health	10	5
Others	-	-
Total	**200**	**200**

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Source: Based On The Study Conducted During 2021-22**.**
The Survey Shows That Covid 19 Was The Primary Source Of The Return Migration From The Gulf. 45 Percent Of Individuals Have Directly Affected Covid19, Making It Harder To Obtain Work In Kerala For A More Significant Part Of Expatriates. 10 Percent Of The Total Said That Low Salaries After Covid In The Gulf Seem Too Challenging To Meet Their Needs And Left With No Savings, Even After Working Long Hours. Even 5 Percent Suggest That Partly To Such Covid Restrictions, Contract Expiry Wasn't Prolonged. 15 Percentage Suggest That The Reason For Their Return Was Indeed The Gulf Nationalisation. Whereas 10 Percentage of Expatriaates Pointed To The Aggressiveness Of Employers

Case Study 2
Mr Jamsheer, Age 34 Years, Male From Malappuram Jamsheer (Name Changed) Is An Accountant Who Hails From Malappuram, Kerala. He Received Approximately 85000 Each Month. He Is The Breadwinner Of The Whole Family, Consisting Of His Two Children, Wife, Mother, And Father. He Lost His Job Lost Through Covid 19 Economic Impact. He Cannot Find Any Jobs In Kerala Today. His House Loan Left Him Stranded In Perunthalmmana Branch, Malappuram, SBI. He Got An Approximately Rs 20 Lakh Loan To Rebuild His Property; Now, It's Challenging For Me To Repay SBI BANK 40,000 Each Month. He Has No Idea What To Do. Even If I Find Employment In Kerala, I Cannot Earn More Than 30-35000 Rs. How Can I Maintain My Family, Educate My Children, And Medical Needs Of My Parents'? Travel Restrictions And Other Challenges Are Still Ahead Of Him, Even Considering Migrating Back To Abu-Dhabi.

Issues and Challenges of Return Migrants
Returnee Migrants Do Face Numerous Issues And Challenges Due To A Variety Of Reasons. If They Cannot Find A Steady Income To Meet The Ongoing Expenditure, They May Gradually Drift Into The Trap Of Debt. Investing In An Unfamiliar Business That Incurred Loss And Financial Requirements Of The Family Such As Marriage, Professional And Private Education Of Children, Unexpected Health Issues Etc., Add Up Vulnerability For The Migrants After Returning To The State.

Table 5, Issues and Challenges Faced By Return Migrants

Issues Faced By Return Gulf Migrants In Kerala	**No: Of Respondents**	**Percentage**
Issues And Problems Affected By Covid 19	100	50
Lack Of Earnings/ Wages	30	15
Unexpected Health Issues/ Other Expenses Such As Education And Marriage Of Children	30	15
Social And Financial Alienation (Loneliness/ Indebtedness)	20	10

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Lack Of Social Respect	15	7.5
No Government Support (Due To Lack Of Awareness And Sensitisation).	20	10
Others	5	2.5
Total	**100**	**100**

Source: Based On The Study Conducted During 2021-22.

Table 5 Illustrates How The Gulf Return Migrants In Their Homelands Are Experiencing Issues And Problems. Out Of These, The Highest Number Of Respondents Claimed (50 Percent) Covid 19 As The Key Reason For The Despair And Failures. The Drastic Socio-Economic Impact Of Covid 19 Has Adversely Affected Their Jobs, Income, Health And All Earnings. Almost 15 Percent Of The Respondents In The Study Felt The Shortage Of Better Income As The Biggest Challenge. In Comparison, 15 Percent Suggest That Unforeseen Health Problems, Child Education And Marriage Of Their Children Are Significant Issues When They Have Already Reached The Gulf. While 10 Percent Replied That They Were Socially And Financially Alienated, 7.5 Percent Would Not Receive Funding From The Government Even If They Had Returned. Nevertheless, 10 Percent Believe, After Losing The Tag Of An Earner, That Too Changes To An Ex- Gulf Would Confront The Lack Of Social Respect Between Both The Family Members And Society. In Contrast, A Breadwinner Always Has Respect In Family And Community. Even After The *Pravasi* Tag Is Gone, It Is Challenging To Face Society And Family, And They Too Felt That. ("Pravasi Life Is Much Better Than The Life Of Return Migrants, At Gulf, We Were Earning Members, And All People And Socio-Religious Organisations Were Depending On Us For Gulf Money And Owing A Dignified Life As We Came On Leave. Today, We Attained The Status Of Ex-Migrants, And No One Is Here With Us, Neither The Society Nor The Extended Family; They Are Busy In Their Life. We Sometimes Feel Like A Scapegoat Who Had Worked Almost 30 Years For Their Owner And Still Waiting For The Call Of Death."- An Ex MigrantWorker From Kerala, Raheem Age 65 (Name Changed).

Case Study 3: Mr Rajesh (Name Changed)

He Is From Kerala, Age 45. He Was Earning Comparatively Better, Almost 70,000 Per Month, Unfortunately, In February 2020. He Was Seriously Affected By Covid 19 From Oman, And He Has Become Coma Stage And Was Treated At A Government Hospital In Oman For Six Months. He Needed Almost 2850 Riyal For His Transportation. On This, His Sponsor And Egyptian Helped To Get Him To Get Back To Kerala 2000 Riyal. Expenses 850Riyals Was Helped By A Charity Organisation. Now A Charity Organisation And Some Of His Friends Are Helping Rs 10000 Per Month To His Home. Now, Because Of Covid 19 Impact, No Money Is Left With Charity And No Idea How They Will Survive. He Was The Sole Earning Member Of His Family. His Family Consist Of 2 Daughters, A Wife Father And A Mother. The Wife Is Entirely Dependent On Someone To Help Them Give Some Money To Meet Their Daily Needs. In Addition To This Adversity, For His Medical Expenses With The Hope To Overcome His Coma, The Family Has Collected Rs 10 Lakh For Hospital Expenses Through Charity And Religious Organisations. No Government

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Support Is Receiving Presently.

Suggestions for Betterment of Gulf Returnees in Kerala

The Following Section Discusses Suggestive Action For Gulf Return Migrant Expatriates. The Interviewees Encounter Various Problems And Challenges As Soon As They Return Home. The Migrant Workers Are Proposing Specific Ways To Improve The Lives Of Migrant Workers In Kerala Who Are Returning To The Gulf.

Table 6, Measures for Inclusion and Suggestions in The Society

Measures For Inclusion And Suggestions	No. Of Respondents		Percentage
	Malappuram	Ernakulum	
Creating A New Platform To Discuss The Issues Of Return Migrants, Especially Those Who Are Affected By Covid 19.	30	25	28
Encourage And Sensitise Young Migrants For The Entrepreneur Skills Development Program (ESDP)	15	20	17
Free And Compulsory Basic Medical Facilities To Return Migrants At Least To Meet Their Essential Medicines (With The Support Of NORKA, NGO And These Friends Of Migrants Groups)	25	20	25
Counselling Sections Should Be Given To Old Age/ Physically And Mentally Return Migrants As Most Of Them Are Challenging To Cope Up With The Changing Demands Of Society.	10	10	10
New Support System From Government And Civil Society Is Utmost Needed	20	20	20
Total	50	50	100

Source: Based On The Study Conducted During 2021-22**.**

This Survey Shows That Creating A New Platform To Discuss The Issues Of Return Migrants, Especially Those Who Are Affected By Covid 19, Has Also Been Recommended By 28 Percent, So That Participants May Talk And Develop Better Policies On Return

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Migrants In The State. 17 Percent Of Respondents Believed That Starting New Initiatives With Government Assistance, Especially For Migrants From The Gulf Return, Will Improve The Economic Base Of Gulf Return Migrants. Encourage And Sensitise Young Migrants For The Entrepreneur Skills Development Program (ESDP). At The Same Time, 25 Percent Of The Total Respondents Want Free And Compulsory Basic Healthcare Facilities Accessible To Return Migrants. Those Initiatives Will Boost Respondents' Confidence To Cover Their Medical Expenses Without Depending On Family Members Or Society. It Can Also Be Done With The Support Of NORKA, Non-Governmental Organisations And Migrant Groups' Supporters. While 10 Percent Of Respondent's Emphasis On Counselling Sections Should Be Given To Old Age/ Physically And Mentally Return Migrants As Most Of Them Are Challenging To Cope With The Changing Demands Of Society. While 20 Percent Of Expatriates Are In High Need Of New Support System From The Government And Civil Society, That Is Utmost Needed

4. MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Kerala Diaspora Is One Of The Most Studied Diasporas In India Concerning The Impact Of Outmigration And Remittances. There Are Several State-Level Studies, Such As The Periodic Kerala Migration Surveys On Kerala And Most Of The Studies By The Centre For Development Studies, Trivandrum. It May Be Noted That Most Of These Studies Remained At The Macro Level, To The Neglect Of Micro-Level Studies, Exploring The Personal And Local Ramifications. Especially There Is A Shortage Of Studies That Emphasises The Impact Of Covid 19 On Gulf Migrants Who Are Returning From The Gulf Towards Kerala. Hence, Existing Literature Seems To Be Deficient In The Near Absence Of The Studies On The Impact Of Covid 19 On Gulf Return Expatriates From Kerala. Micro-Level Studies Unravel The Transformation Process At The Personal And Socio-Cultural Levels, Especially The Impact And Challenges Of Covid 19 And Expatriates' Socio-Economic Impact And Transformations. The Study, Therefore, Addresses The Issues, Challenges And Impacts Of Gulf Return Migrants In The Kerala And Their Life Of Their Supporting Family Members (Once They Are Back To Home State). This Study Academically Contributes To The Existing Literature On Covid 19 On The Kerala Diaspora In The Gulf. It Focuses On Mapping The Low-End Pravasi And The Subjective To The Transformative Processes And Its Consequence. Covid 19 Impacts Return Migrants In Kerala Society. The Present Study Will Add Up To the Policy Measures Through Understanding The Issues And Getting Proper Suggestions And Recommendations For The Challenges Faced By The Gulf Migrants During Covid 19 WillHelp Generate A Better Policy For Migrants In The State.

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