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## A MICRO LEVEL STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MARRIED WOMEN MIGRATION ON FAMILY

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### J.ASWATHY

Guest Faculty, Department of Economics  
NSS Hindu College, Changanachery, Kerala, India

### Abstract

*One important facet of study on population is the study of migration arising out of various social, economic or political reasons. Migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent resident, usually across a political boundary. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and intrinsic feature of our ever globalizing world. Over the last 25 years, there has been little concerted effort to incorporate gender into theories of migration. Yet, understanding gender is critical in the migration context. About half of the migrants in the world today are women. According to World Bank's Migration and Remittances fact book, in 2013, the percentage of international migrants world wide increased by 33% with 59% of migrants are women. We know that it's common for women's position in the family improve in some ways with migration. But it affects intergenerational relations in the family. There are two types of women migration i.e., associational and autonomous migration. Autonomous migration of married women is for employment purpose. It has significant effect on family. This paper addresses the social and economic impact of married women migration based on the survey conducted in Neendoor Panchayat in Kottayam district.*

**Keywords:** Emigration, immigration, in-migration, outmigration, autonomous migration, associational migration

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### Introduction

Migration is an important vector of social, economic and cultural change. Indian migration history started about 2500 years ago much before Biblical times to distant shores of Africa, south East Asia and Far East. Kerala is famous for its population migrating to different parts of India and other countries in search of job migration has been one of the positive outcomes of Kerala model of Development (Zachariah, Mathew and Irudayarajan, 2000). In Kerala, migration from Kerala turned negative.

However, during 1991- 01, net migration rate was lower than that during previous decades 1981-91.

According to the Demographic Dictionary of UN, migration is “such an event in which people move from one geographical area to another geographical area when people leaving their place of resident go to live permanently in another area then this is called migration.” Migration can be broadly classified into two i.e., internal migration and international migration.

### **Objectives**

1. To find out the economic impact of married women migration on family.
2. To find out the social impact of married women migration on family.

### **Methodology**

The study was based on the primary and secondary data. For the purpose of understanding the socio – economic impact of married women migration, primary data were collected from Neendoor Panchayat in Kottayam district, Kerala. Kottayam district is selected for analysis since it is the district in Kerala from where the highest women migration takes place. Neendoor Panchayat is a Panchayat in which reporting very high women migration in Kottayam district. Researcher collected 60 samples from 3 wards in Neendoor Panchayat. For each of these wards 20 households are selected. Data are collected mainly from family members of migrants.

The secondary data was collected mainly from related works of migration, government publications, census report, periodicals and development report of Neendoor Panchayat etc. For analyzing the socio – economic impact of married women migration on family, the social and economic costs and benefits due to married women migration is compared. For the purpose of finding impact of married women migration on society, various components like investment, trends of migration, job pattern of the migrants etc. were analyzed. Appropriate statistical technique is also adopted.

### **Significance of the Study**

Women's labour force activity is regarded as one of the most important factors defining women's life. It influences not only their economic role, but also their power in the household, their fertility levels, nutrition and welfare of their families. The impact of married female migration is greater than the impact of unmarried female migration (Anju Malhotra and Dborah. S. Degraff; 2000)

The family is the primary level of social organization. It is here in the family that women's contribution to national building will be greatest significance and most enduring values. The absence of mother in a house influences the behavior of their children, attachment of their husband, contributions of elderly people etc. Mothers

invest more in their children's education and health. When a married women migrate, the family bear some costs both Psychological and economic. The Psychological cost means feeling of loneliness of children, aged parents. The economic cost means appointing a servant for rearing children and aged parents or hostel fees paid for their children and expenditure in the old age homes. At the same times, there are many economic benefits also. Women migration also affects the structure of society, unemployment and poverty level, demographic components like fertility, mortality, population growth etc....

In this study, the main focus is on the autonomous migration of married women both out migration and emigration. For this Neendoor Panchayat in Kottayam district is selected. This Panchayat is selected because there is a large number of autonomous migration of married females. They play an important role in the building of family, society and economy of this Panchayat.

## **Results and Discussions**

### **Married women migration: Socio Economic Impact on Family**

In human context, a family is group of people affiliated by consanguinity, affinity or co residence. In a family, all the members have equal importance. But mother plays more important role than any other member. Migration of a married woman affects all the family members. Just like any migration, married women migration has also both costs and benefits. This cost can be divided into economic and social costs. Benefits can also divided into economic and social benefit. Economic impact of married women migration is important because it gives a clear picture of whether economic benefit is greater than economic cost. Economic cost means financial cost incurred due to married women migration. The main economic costs are travelling cost and wages paid to servants.

### **Economic Cost of Married Women Migration on Family**

The study shows that 21.66% of married women migrants spent below 1 lakh as travelling cost. 26.66% spent 1 lakh to below 2 lakh for migration and 25% spent 2 lakh to below 3 lakh for migration. That shows that majority of married women migrants spent below 3 lakh as travelling cost.

In a family, usually married women takes care all the family members. They do the household activities like cooking, nursing their children, aged parents etc. when they migrate, there is a cost incurred for employing someone else to do these activities. But the study shows that the costs due to employing servants are very low because the aged parents of these families are healthy. Only 20% of families employ servants in the absence of married women. Out of these 46.15% of migrants employ servants for taking care both parents & children. 30.76% of migrants employ servants for taking care only children and 23.07% migrants employ servants for taking care only aged

parents. Although the number of migrant's households employing servants are low, the expenditure incurred for employing servants are relatively high.

### **Economic Benefit of Married Women Migration on Family**

Economic benefit means financial benefit of migrant's family due to migration of married women. Economic benefits include increase in income, investment, consumption, saving etc. Economic benefit is the main reason for migration.

The study shows that half of the migrants earn between 10,000 to 50,000. This high income of migrants help to increase the standard of living of family and expenditure of luxury goods also increased. Because of migration, most of the married women migrants have either bank deposit or insurance or both. After migration, 65% of married women migrant's family consumption expenditure increased. 25% of migrant's family consumption expenditure decreased because of reducing the number of family members. But there is no large scale change in the education expenditure of migrant's children. Because before migration also many migrants spend large amount for giving higher level of education to their children.

The study shows that majority of migrants have land below 50 cent. It shows the land investment of married women migrant is relatively low. But the standard of living of migrant's family is very high. About 75% of migrant's family use private hospitals and 66.66% has very good houses.

### **Social Impact of Married Women Migration on Family**

Social impact of married women migration is very high as compared to male migration. The social impact is understood by conducting opinion survey. The social Impact can be divided into social cost and social benefit.

### **Social Cost of 'Married Women Migration' on Family**

Social cost means psychological cost of migrant's family due to married women migration. It includes aged parents' attitude towards migration, migrant's childrens' attitude, migrants' husbands' attitude. etc.

The study shows that 63.3% of aged parents live alone and 20% live with their relatives or son. But an aged parent with no problem of their daughter –in-law's migration is greater than the aged parents with problem. More than half of the aged parents consider it is happy to rear their grand children. So the children in boarding and with relatives are very low. Because of the caring attitude of grandparents 65.38% of migrant's children have no problem due to migration of their mothers. This shows that the social cost of married women migration in the case of aged parents and children are relatively low.

Women migrant's husband's attitude is also important to find cut the social cost of migration of married women. The study shows that social costs of migrants' husbands

are relatively low because 63.33% of migrants' husbands live with them. But 75% of husbands who are live at native place has problem because of their wife's migration. This mainly arises because they have to look after both their aged parents and children

### Social Benefit of Family

The study shows that high social benefit due to migration. 95% of migrant's children study in English medium

### Status of migrant's family after migration

Status	Numbers	%
Increase	46	76.66
Decrease	0	0
Constant	14	23.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

The study shows that social benefit of married women migration is high because family status of 76.66 of migrants increased after migration.

**Source:** Field survey

### Conclusion

The study based on the impact of married women migration on family shows that though there is social and economic cost due to married women migration, the social and economic benefit accruing to the family is greater than the cost. Therefore, the socio economic impact of married women migration of family is positive. To conclude, migration is generally empowered women in terms of increased labour force participation, economic independence and higher self esteem. So we must encourage married women migration. But we should ensure that there is no gender based discrimination in the place of destination.

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