**Migration of Muslims from Kerala to Gulf Countries, evidenses for forced migration from the villages of Malappuram in Kerala.**

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Though Indian subcontinent was historically connected with the Persian Gulf Countries, there was never a large migration of labor until the 1970s. Subsequently, huge number of labour from India started to migrate, out of which migration from the southern state of Kerala attracted much attention because of the large number of migrants from the state. Migration from Kerala to Gulf Countries is one of the important studied component within the migration and development literature in India. However, even when Muslims are one of the leading migratory community, studies on the various aspects of them is considerably less. In this context, this paper investigates some of the basic questions about the reasons of migration of Muslims from Malabar to Gulf Countries. Migration of Muslims from Malabar is very significant due to various reasons. Muslims from Malabar had their own reasons for the migration to Gulf Countries apart from other reasons that we find in the literature regarding migration. Various factors within community and outside have forced the Muslim youth to migrate and remain at the destination countries to which they have migrated.

On the basis of the filed work that is carried out in a Muslim populated village in Malappuram district, the paper argues that, the larger causes or the reasons those were explained and given to us in the literature and studies about the causes of migration to Gulf countries is not sufficient to understand the migration of Muslims from the state. Considering the larger contexts and socio -economic and political situations that have existed during the inital and peak period of migration is also very important. Inquiring from the larger learnings that the literature provide about migration from the state of Kerala to Gulf countries and the socio-economic and political situations that existed in during 1970's and 1980's and the conditions of Muslims in Malabar in the wake of these periods, especially poverty and unemployment has to be seen as one of the very crucial reason for why people had to migrate anyhow to Gulf Countries, especially to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Youth have migrated from Malabar by even selling the gold that their mothers or wives have, selling whatever small ladened property they have, borrowing from available sources and even taking loans or money from moneylenders. They were never educated or skilled to get higher paid professional employments in the destination countries and they had to satisfy on the unskilled, semi skilled lower paid jobs. Rampant unemployment throughout the last three decades, Umra and free visa facility to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, dowry and expensive marriages existed in the village, the modernization of the occupation of Ossan castes and demand for the hairdressers, the extreme aspirations and the dream of Gulf from the suffering life and poverty at the village, family,village and other net works were the crucial reasons which made their migration to Gulf Countries rather than many other explanations given to us. Its evident that, there is noting much religious about the why Muslims migrate from here to Gulf countries, but the economic reasons behind those comes out when one go for a deep analysis of the socio-economic and other conditions of the migrants. Thus, the migration to Gulf countries from the villages here in Malappuram has to be argued as a forced migration.

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