

Migration from Kerala to other countries especially Middle-east, has been most significant since 1970's. Estimates shows that emigration from Kerala was 2.31 lakh in early 80's while it reaches to 2.28 million in 2011. According to KMS 2011, the remittances as a percentage of NSDP are 31.2 percent making Kerala economy a remittance dependent economy. The household remittances in Kerala were estimated to be Rs. 15,129 crores while it was 7,965 crores in 2003. Looking at the magnitude and increasing flow of remittance over the years it can be argued that the impact of remittances has tremendous influence both at the household level and the Kerala society as a whole.

Remittances and its economic consequences on Kerala are studied widely often considering migrants primarily as economic actors. Studies in international remittances and its impact in Kerala largely limited to economic remittances. Of late, it is realised that migrants send and bring back a suitcase of immaterial goods that are intertwined with economic remittance. It should be noted that the beyond economic resources migrants sent or brought back intangible resources as well. The connections between migrants and non-migrants are so strong sometimes that both parties' lives are radically changed by economic, cultural, political and social exchanges between them. Besides economic remittances, migrants transfer the knowledge, new ideas, information, and know-how that influences the lives of people at home country –coined as social remittance (Levitt,1998). In this connection, mobility of people from Kerala to Gulf and other countries not only sending remittance that has economic value but also sends and brought back many new skills, ideas and beliefs that influence the culture and behavior of families left-behind in Kerala. Thus, the remittances not only has economic value rather the socio-cultural meanings are attached to this.

This paper is an attempt to explore and understand the pathways of transfer of social remittance in Kerala. Social remittance, analyzed in two ways: One way is to disclose the link between social and economic remittance and other, investment in social exchange- gifts or informal communications.

The data for the study is drawn from Kerala Migration Survey, 2010. Social remittances are defined from a theoretical perspective but it is difficult to operationalise from quantitative data. However KMS provides rich information on emigrants and their remittance behavior including uses of remittance, remittance sent in terms of gifts and other exchanges and so on

To understand how social remittances blend with economic one and hence, flow along with this, uses of economic remittance on various household items are analysed. The Kerala

Migration Survey collects information on uses of economic remittance on different items of household development- health, education, investment, rituals, marriage, donation etc. Some indicators like donations and dowry payment etc directly represent the involvement of social remittance in economic remittance. However, the other indicators- health, education, improvement in living situation provided in the data set on uses of remittance are taken also as a proxy of social remittance as well. Further, the uses of remittance can be analysed by composition of household and gender of household since different types of household have priority and needs and hence, the uses of remittance vary accordingly.

The table-1 presented here will shows proportion of household using remittance for different purposes.

Table-1: Uses of remittances for different categories of expenditure by household composition

	Elderly	Nuclear	Extended	Total
Proportion of household-	4.17	46.18	49.65	89.44
Expenditure on items-				
Day-to-day household expenses	81.37	83.01	82.61	81.87
Education of children/relatives	2.94	44.07	39.43	39.77
Debt Repayment	16.67	35.50	30.95	32,16
Medical expenses	41.18	31.49	39.94	35.71
Dowry payment	0	2.00	1.11	1.46
Donations to religious/charitable organization	9.80	8.50	8.47	8.45
Improvement in living situation(housing+ repair+ invest in land+ cash+vehicle)	33.59	39.34	38.91	43.44
Investment(business+saving+gold)	24.43	22.53	23.51	25.84
Others	10.78	11.63	9.58	10.46
Total	102	1130	1215	2447

Source: Estimated from KMS,2011

The findings show except for uses of remittance money by large proportion of household for daily needs, the proportion of households using remittance for other items vary according to type of household. Findings show a large proportion of elderly household(41%) using remittance money for investment in health relative to other. In this regard one can argue that emigrants sending remittances in reciprocity as form of physical and emotional care since parents give birth and care for them in their childhood(Mills,1999; Pongpaichit,1982). Unlike this nuclear household uses remittance for education of children. Use of remittance money in education of children is considered as form of investment in social capital- they are preparing the future migrants who in long run will remit money and will bring household development. Likewise a significant proportion of households irrespective of type using remittances for improving living conditions in terms of better housing and renovating and

enlarging the old one, purchasing vehicles and investing in land for economic security and status. Such kind of investment reflects the material investment of social ties. Expenditure on these items reflects social remittances are entangled with economic one. - In order to acquire higher social status and honors in the community household invest in improving living situation.

Besides, a significant visible way of mechanism transfer of social remittances is the gifts/materials possess by household. The study found clothes as a form of gift received by many household –reflects not only the affections but also acceptance of a modern culture. Being far from their childrens the psychological and emotional burdens the household members receive- remitting the gift is used as a adoption strategy. Besides investment in gift-reflect the investment in social relations thorough remittance practices.

Social remittances are defined from a theoretical perspective but it is difficult to operationalise from quantitative data. However, using KMS data this paper attempt to explore the mechanisms of transfer of social remittance through economic remittances and remitting gift. Moreover, within this limitation of data the study explore the co-presence of social remittances in economic one. However, wider empirical research and a qualitative study is required for a deep understanding of these issues.