

## A Study on Pre & Post COVID-19 Impact on the Financial Status of Migrant's Employees with Special Reference to Ernakulam District

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**Abstract:** Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people who fall sick with this disease will experience moderate symptoms and recover without any special treatment but those who are having respiratory and cardio diseases may affect the infections in a serious way. The infection was seen in Kerala by the end of February, by the end of March Kerala Government declared lockdown for keeping the people more safe. Lockdown was started for 7 days and government extended it to end of April 2020. Gradually the government give relaxation on lockdown. Different sectors were affected in this pandemic followed by lockdown. Migrants employees were inattentive group of people those who were belongs to less privileged category moved from different parts of the country for their livelihood ,movement of people from the place of birth to anywhere to reside and settle can be called as 'migration'. According to IOM<sup>2</sup> "migration is the movement of a person or a group of persons either across an international boarder or within a country/state". The process of migration is as old as human history as it pave the way for forming different civilizations and surely, it will continue till human life exists. This study tries to analyze how the migrants face the financial issues in the time of lockdown 2020, it also tries to find out the socio-economic background of the in-migrant workers. Thus to explore the reasons behind their migration to Kerala and their working atmosphere, heterogeneity among them in terms of place of origin, age groups, culture, educational standards, their consumption pattern, improvements in earnings, savings, living standards etc. Therefore this study stands relevant and timely in the light of above mentioned dimensions. The economic conditions of the migrant workers in Ernakulam district at the time of lockdown, sample collected was 134 migrants analysis of statistical data we use SPSS 22 version. Used Excel for graphical representation of the data,mainly carryout statistical test such as: Paired t test& Cross tabulation.Descriptive design with quantitative method is used.

**Key words:** 1.Migration: Migration Involves the Movement of People from One Place to Another.  
2. IOM-International Organization for Migration.

### Introduction

Migration is the movement of either people or animals from one region to another. Look up in the trees, where we might see a flock of birds came from different places. Migration can be used for the journey from one place to another or for the act of movement.

The movement of people from the place of birth to anywhere to reside and settle can be called as 'migration'. Migration is a noticeable phenomenon. It occurs globally among human population as well as different species. According to IOM "migration is the movement of a person or a group of persons either across an international boarder or within a country/State". Migration is a never-ending process. The process of migration is as old as human history as it paves the way for forming different civilizations and surely, it will continue till human race exists. Migration is globally important it varies in terms of origin, destination, and characteristics of migrants, and also in terms of duration, distance, geographical borders.

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semipermanent residence, usually across a political boundary. An example of "semipermanent residence" would be the seasonal movements of migrant farm laborers. People can either choose to move ("voluntary migration") or be forced to move ("involuntary migration"). Migrations have occurred throughout human history, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current location in the world. Migration occurs at a variety of scales: intercontinental (between continents), intracontinental (between countries on a given continent), and interregional (within countries). One of the most significant migration patterns has been rural to urban migration—the movement of people from the countryside to cities in search of opportunities.

This study is to analyse the economic conditions of the migrant workers in Ernakulam district in the ground of lockdown 2020 and also focuses on how far unorganized labor contributes to improves the living conditions of the migrants and dependents during the pandemic. The findings of the study is by using data collected from 134 migrant workers. The findings reveal that migrants faced financial issues at the time of

pandemic in the month of March to 2020 till the date, That is why some went back to their native places immediately, then later they came back when the situations were back to normal. In the study, workers from Assam, west Bengal & Bihar dominates than that of the migrants from neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Telangana and Karnataka. Most of them are young workers. Poverty and social background are the basic reasons for migration from their native places. Among them, irregular works and low wage rates are identified as the major reasons. High wages, regular work and better working conditions are their main attraction for migration. Some migrants in our study have previous experiences of migration. They claims that Kerala from other places in terms of safety and better living conditions.

There is much variation in the economic condition of migrants before and after the migration. Lockdown made them well off in terms of income, remittances and savings. Many migrants lost their earnings due to pandemic. They are earning much higher income than their native place before the lockdown but the situation got changed. migrants are spending more than what they earned from job. the relevance of having an emergency fund is unknown to them. Majority will come under non-saving or less saving category. The reason is they remit whole of their savings on a regular basis to satisfy their dependents needs, to pay back the debts etc.

### Review of Literature

**Arjan de Haan (2020)**, Lockdown provide opportunities for ‘building back better’: in the case of migrant workers these consist of essential immediate social protection, but also, and likely much more challenging, addressing deep-rooted inequalities that keep workers in marginalized positions, and the invisibility of the migrants that once again were absorbed by their villages of origin. The case of neglect of migrant workers during the pandemic in India was quite widely reported, at least during the early months of the pandemic.

**Sonupandey (2020)** The unprecedented public health crisis due to COVID-19 has thrown the vulnerability of migrant construction workers into sharp relief. Most of them are not enrolled in any social protection scheme, and those who are, have been only provided with contingencies. These measures are inadequate to address the multidimensional deprivations and fundamental causes of vulnerability arising due to globalization and a changing labor market, which has been exacerbated by the current crisis

**Deepak K Mishra (2016)** The impact of migration on society, highlighting the interlink ages between individual and societal aspirations. It interrogates the role of the state and non-state agencies involved in various aspects of the life and livelihoods of migrant workers and provides a critical assessment of the policy frameworks and instruments affecting migration. Focusing on the diverse aspects and types of internal migration, the book studies the exploitation and marginalization of migrants on the basis of class, caste, religion, gender, ethnicity and regional location in post-reform India.

**D. Narayanan and et.al. (2013)** suggests in a study conducted for workers and Rehabilitation Department, Govt. of Kerala, a voluntary registration system of domestic migrant employees would be valid for availing benefits for various purposes. Since these workers are uneducated they are highly exposed to diseases. Therefore, this study suggests the introduction of various social security schemes including provisions for payment to take care their serious illness, and unexpected death.

**Saikia, Dilip (2011)**, The major objective of the paper is to examine the economic conditions of the migrant workers pre and post migration (in terms of the nature of work, skills level, consumption, income, etc.). It also tries to examine the savings and consumption pattern of the migrant workers and the factors influencing in-migration of workers to Kerala.

**Surabhi K. S. & N. Ajith Kumar (2007)**, The objective of this paper is to alert the government policy makers and administrators in the state level as well as at the local level about the issues resulting from the rapid increase in the migrant population in Kerala. This paper focuses only the migrant employees from Tamil Nadu to Kerala. They say “the large inflow of migrants from different parts of the country puts pressure on governance as well as civil amenities”. the migrant workers can lead to violence & social unrest as it happened in France. This study concludes that the migrant workers get higher wages in Kerala than their native place but the difference is working time.

### Objectives

1. To understand the financial issues of the migrants in the post lockdown period
2. To understand the socio-demographic profile of the migrant workers

### Hypothesis

H<sub>0</sub>- There is no significant financial issues for migrants before and after lockdown period

H<sub>1</sub> – There is significant financial issues for migrants in the lockdown period

H<sub>0</sub>- There is no significant difference in case of housing cost before and after lockdown

H<sub>1</sub> – there is significant difference in case of housing cost before and after lockdown

H<sub>0</sub> - There is no significant relation on cost of food before and after lockdown

H<sub>1</sub> - There is significant relation on cost of food before and after lockdown

H<sub>0</sub>- There is no significant relation between transportation cost before and after lockdown

H<sub>1</sub>- There is significant relation between transportation cost before and after lockdown

H<sub>0</sub>- There is no significant relation to fulfil the demand of dependants before and after lockdown

H<sub>1</sub>- There is significant relation to fulfil the demand of dependants before and after lockdown

H<sub>0</sub>- There is no significant difference in cost of health care before and after lockdown

H<sub>1</sub>- There is significant difference in cost of health care before and after lockdown

### Research Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature both on primary and secondary data. Primary data collected through direct interview and well defined questionnaire collected directly from in-migrants of Ernakulam district. Ernakulam district is divided into 3 most migrant populated areas and data was collected from those three areas such as Perumbavoor, Kaloorkkadavantra and Thevara the secondary data is from various websites. Ernakulam district is taken as the area for data collection. 134 migrant workers were chosen from different areas, convenient sampling method is used to choose sample data.

### Limitations of the Study

1. India is diverse in every aspect, in terms of language, religion and ethnically diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies and cultures, Being a diverse civilization, India is a land of myriad tongue with over 1650 spoken languages and dialects and for this study, Data collection was conducted among migrants from other states, Data collection on migrants was the toughest part in the study.
2. Some of the questions asked were sensitive in nature respondents were reluctant to answer the questions, such as amount of earnings, savings before and after the lockdown, reason behind the migration etc.
3. Data collected is only from 134 samples.

### Socio-Demographic Profile of Migrants in Ernakulam

The study reveals that some important key points to be taken into care. Exploratory data analysis have been carried out for the studied data set and different graphical methods are employed for the analysis of the data. From the study it is revealed that most of the migrant employees were belong to age below 35 years. Majority of the respondents belongs to family having 4-8 members it shows that, these family members are depending on these migrant employees earnings for their needs and to fulfill expenses of family in the native. majority of the migrants were belongs to unemployed category at the time of migration it shows that migrants are forced to migrate to Kerala as the situation in state and the wage payment is better as compared to that of native place. Respondents comes in the literate category as the analyses shows majority pass 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Nature of work in Kerala of migrants mainly on construction sector and farming sector which combines poultry and agriculture as well. Few respondents were possesses their own house majority depends on the shared rented accommodation.

### Aim:

To Study the Relation between Current Wages and Saving of Migrants.

We have carried out cross tabulation to study about the relationship existing between current wage system and savings of migrants labours.

Table 1

			Savings			Total
			10000-20000	Less Than 10000	No Savings	
Current Wage System	Dis satisfied	Count	0	30	0	30
		% within Savings	0.0%	37.5%	0.0%	22.4%
	Highly satisfied	Count	0	0	2	2
		% within Savings	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	1.5%
	Neutral	Count	0	34	32	66
		% within Savings	0.0%	42.5%	69.6%	49.3%
	Satisfied	Count	8	16	12	36
	% within Savings	100.0%	20.0%	26.1%	26.9%	
Total		Count	8	80	46	134
		% within Savings	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Aim:**

To Study the Relation between Daily Expense at the Time of Lockdown and Effect of Community Kitchen Introduced by Government.

We have carried out cross tabulation to study about the relationship existing between expense at the time of lockdown and benefits of community kitchen among migrants labors

**Table 2: Expense at the Time of Lockdown \* Benefits of Community Kitchen Cross Tabulation**

			Benefits of Community Kitchen					Total	
			Always	Frequently	Never	Seldom	Sometimes		
Expense at the time of lockdown	Borrowings	Count	0	0	6	4	0	10	
		% within benefits of community kitchen	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	100.0%	0.0%	7.5%	
	Employer	Count	2	8	50	0	14	74	
		% within benefits of community kitchen	100.0%	80.0%	62.5%	0.0%	36.8%	55.2%	
	Govt relief camp	Count	0	2	0	0	10	12	
		% within benefits of community kitchen	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	26.3%	9.0%	
	Out of savings	Count	0	0	24	0	14	38	
		% within benefits of community kitchen	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%	0.0%	36.8%	28.4%	
	Total		Count	2	10	80	4	38	134
			% within benefits of community kitchen	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Aim:**

To Study the Relation between Benefits of Community Kitchen Introduced by Government and its Usefulness to Meet Up with Food Expense in the Life of Migrants.

We have carried out cross tabulation to study about the relationship existing between the benefits of community kitchen among migrants labors and its usefulness to meet up with food expense.

**Table 3: Benefits of Community Kitchen to Meet the Food Expense Cross Tabulation**

			Meet the food expense					Total
			Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Strongly agree	Strongly Disagree	
Benefits of community kitchen	Always	Count	2	0	0	0	0	2
		% within Meet the food expense	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
	Frequently	Count	8	0	0	2	0	10
		% within Meet the food expense	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.5%
	Never	Count	2	44	22	4	8	80
		% within Meet the food expense	5.0%	100.0%	84.6%	33.3%	66.7%	59.7%
	Seldom	Count	0	0	0	0	4	4
		% within Meet the food expense	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	3.0%
	Sometimes	Count	28	0	4	6	0	38
		% within Meet the food expense	70.0%	0.0%	15.4%	50.0%	0.0%	28.4%
Total		Count	40	44	26	12	12	134
		% within Meet the food expense	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Aim:**

To analyze weather there is any significant difference in earning before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference earning of migrants before and after pandemic situation. The observation are tabulated as given below:

**Table 4: Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	3.0224	134	1.41137	.12192
	After	3.3060	134	1.44174	.12455

**Table 5: Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.795	.000

**Table 6: Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	-.28358	.91448	.07900	-.43984	-.12733	-3.590	133	.000

**Results**

- Earning of migrants before and after lockdown is weakly correlated with  $r=0.795$  and  $p<0.001$
- There was a significant average difference earning of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-3.59$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- On average, earning of migrants after lockdown is 0.61 more than that of before.

From the above table it is inferred that the table value less than the calculated value, it prove that there is significant average difference in earnings of migration before and after lockdown

**Aim:**

To analyze whether there is any significant difference in case of housing cost before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference between housing cost of migrants before and after lockdown. The observations are tabulated as given below:

**Table 7: Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	1.7164	134	.71094	.06142
	After	2.3284	134	1.04613	.09037

**Table 8: Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.632	.000

**Table 9: Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	-.61194	.81259	.07020	-.75079	-.47309	-8.717	133	.000

**Results**

- Housing cost of migrants before and after lockdown is weakly correlated with  $r=0.632$  and  $p<0.001$
- There was a significant average difference housing cost of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-8.717$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- On average, housing cost of migrants after lockdown is 0.61 more than that of before lockdown.

From the above table inferred that the table value less than the calculated value, it proves that there is significant average difference in housing cost of migrants before and after lockdown.

**Aim:**

To analyze whether there is any significant difference in case of food cost before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference between food cost of migrants before and after pandemic situation. The observations are tabulated as given below:

**Table 10: Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	2.2985	134	.79500	.06868
	After	3.1940	134	.93774	.08101

**Table 11: Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.749	.000

**Table 12: Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	-.89552	.62850	.05429	-1.00291	-.78813	-16.494	133	.000

**Results**

- Food cost of migrants before and after lockdown is weakly correlated with  $r=0.749$  and  $p<0.001$
- There was a significant average difference food cost of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-16.494$  and  $p<0.001$ .

- On average, food cost of migrants after lockdown is 0.89 more than that of before.  
From the above table, the table value less than the calculated value, it proves that there is significant average difference in food cost of migration before and after lockdown.

**Aim:**

To analyze weather there is any significant difference in case of transportation cost of migrants before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference between transportation cost of migrants before and after pandemic situation. The observations are tabulated as given below:

**Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	1.8358	134	.78706	.06799
	After	2.8507	134	1.00006	.08639

**Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.847	.000

**Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	-1.01493	.53431	.04616	-1.10622	-.92363	-21.988	133	.000

**Results**

- Transportation cost of migrants before and after lockdown is weakly correlated with  $r=0.847$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- There was a significant average difference Transportation cost of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-21.998$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- On average, transportation cost of migrants after lockdown is 1.01 more than that of before  
From the above table it is workout that the table value less than the calculated value, it prove that there is significant average difference in transportation cost of migration before and after lockdown.

**Aim:**

To analyze weather there is any significant difference in case of welfare of dependence before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference between welfare of dependence before and after pandemic situation. The observations are tabulated as given below:

**Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	3.9254	134	1.35794	.11731
	After	1.2239	134	.59625	.05151

**Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.002	.980

**Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	2.70149	1.48187	.12801	2.44829	2.95470	-21.103	133	.000

**Results**

- Welfare of dependence of migrants before and after lockdown is strongly correlated with  $r=0.002$  and  $p=0.980$
- There was a significant average difference between welfare of dependence of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-21.103$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- On average, welfare of dependence of migrants before lockdown is 2.70 more than that of after lockdown.

From the above table it is evident that the table value less than the calculated value, it prove that there is significant average difference in welfare of dependence before and after lockdown.

**Aim:**

To analyze weather there is any significant difference in case of health care of migrants before and after lockdown.

We have carried out paired t-test to study whether there is any significant difference between health care of migrants before and after pandemic situation. The observations are tabulated as given below:

**Paired Samples Statistics**

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before	1.4925	134	.74335	.06422
	After	2.3284	134	.83869	.07245

**Paired Samples Correlations**

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	134	.703	.000

**Paired Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Before - After	-.83582	.61551	.05317	-.94099	-.73065	- 15.719	133	.000

**Results**

- Health care of migrants before and after lockdown is weakly correlated with  $r=0.703$  and  $p<0.001$
- There was a significant average difference between Health care of migrants before and after lockdown with  $t=-15.719$  and  $p<0.001$ .
- On average, Health care of migrants after lockdown is 0.8358 more than that of before lockdown.

From the above table it is inferred that the table value less than the calculated value, it prove that there is significant average difference in health care of migrants before and after lockdown.

**Findings**

We have arrived at theses finding after conducting a study on migrant employees in the time of lockdown in Kerala in the year 2020.

- It is clear that there is significant decrease in earnings of migrants after lockdown, and it is because of the lockdown and social distancing
- From the study it prove that there is significant average difference in housing cost of migrants before and after lockdown, it has drastically increased and it is affected to those migrants who return back to their native as part of mission subhayathra by the Kerala Government.
- There is significant average difference in food cost of migration before and after lockdown.



- Transportation cost is also increased to an extent because as part of social distancing public transport restricted passengers and it led them to increase the cost of travelling.
- As part of lockdown, comparatively the migrant lost their job and their income affected the overall welfare of dependance as well.
- Cost for health care is also increased as we compare the pre and post lockdown period .

### Conclusions

As per the study it can be concluded that the dawn of COVID-19 followed by lockdown has affected the financial stability of the migrant workers of Ernakulam district, the study reveals that, they face major financial issues such as in terms of day to day expenses, rent payment, food cost, transportation cost, dependance demands, cost of healthcare. the majority of the respondents belongs to unorganized sector and construction sector they are in more contact with the society. thus working environment has affected the economic situation more challenging . Increased dependents needs , student dependences of migrants are having online classes, this forced migrants to spend more money on purchase of television, laptops and smart phones and other incidental expenditure (Electricity , Wi-Fi etc) also has affected the situation more adverse this is directly affected the economic stability as well. As Covid-19 also has resulted in job loss .The outcome specifies compensations where not paid to migrant workers in unorganized sector but in case of migrants in the construction sector and poultry farms, the employers helped the migrants even during lock down period to meet the day to day expenses. Initiatives of Government through “community kitchen” NGO’s and social groups help the migrants by providing food kits and other necessary items, and it was a helping hand to a great extent.

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