

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN KERALA : WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMIL MIGRANTS IN KOCHI**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Migration is the social reality of human race. It is only because of migration that human population spread to all over the world. The whole culture, civilization, language, religion, technology etc... developed as a result of this process of movement. The multicultural India with incomparable social pluralism emerged by experiencing migration of people belonging to various identities. The Epics, Vedas, Upanishads and all those cultural/religious writings in India justifies this human movement. The modern history tries to define this natural instinct as migration because it is a movement from their place of origin to another territory. The development of nation states considerably restricted this natural instinct of man.

The contemporary connotation of migration differs fundamentally from its usage in the past and there is no unanimity over the meaning of migration as the term 'migration' is conceptualized differently by different people depending on which discipline they belong to. However, everyone, regardless of the school of thought, must agree that migration is a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of

destination or place of arrival. People probably moved from one location to another for a variety of reasons, such as climate changes, glaciations, natural disasters, the growth of population or threats from other humans or animals. Among the many reasons of migration the economic cause stands first. The demographic profile of present day India shows the large scale migration of people towards the urban centers. Kerala is one among the states which experience migration in a very large number from the last decade onwards.

Kerala is witnessing large inflow of migrant labour from different parts of the country in recent years. The Large number of in-migration can be seen from states such as West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa to Kerala and from the neighboring state of Tamilnadu out number others by a big margin. Higher wages for unskilled labour in the state, large opportunities for employment and shortage of local labour, led to the massive influx of migrant labour to the state. Migrant labours live in shanty houses/rooms in slum like localities often on a sharing basis. A few of them live on verandas of shops. They have limited access to sanitation facilities and safe water. Their practices of waste disposal pose problems of public health and environment. Their working and living conditions and habits make them suffer from a number of diseases. But their access to public services like health and education is limited. They enjoy very limited protection from labour laws. They also face problems of social integration in Kerala. There are reports of large number of human rights violations. With the possibility of much larger influx in view of the large scale expansion of economic

activities in the State, the migrants can put heavy pressure on urban infrastructure, environment and public services. They may also pose many challenges in governance particularly of urban areas. This study highlights the strong case for a much larger multidisciplinary study on this emerging phenomenon in the State.