

The thesis

sections of the thesis highlight how Gulf migration has become part of the social ethos, cultural norms and contemporary social configurations of Mappilas. In Malabar, going to the Gulf is no longer merely an empirical phenomenon – that highlights the rational decision-making of migrants and their agency – rather, it has become a new ingredient (input) in the societal, familial, and cultural expectations one has of the Mappilas. Drawing from Massey’s writings, the study argues that Gulf migration (re)shapes the community socioeconomic structures of Mappilas and generates the internal momentum necessary for its self-sustenance among the community.

Keywords: Mappila, *wasta*, Malabar, middleman entrepreneurs, social networks, transnationalism, social remittances