

INDIAN MIGRANTS TO GULF: The Kerala Experience

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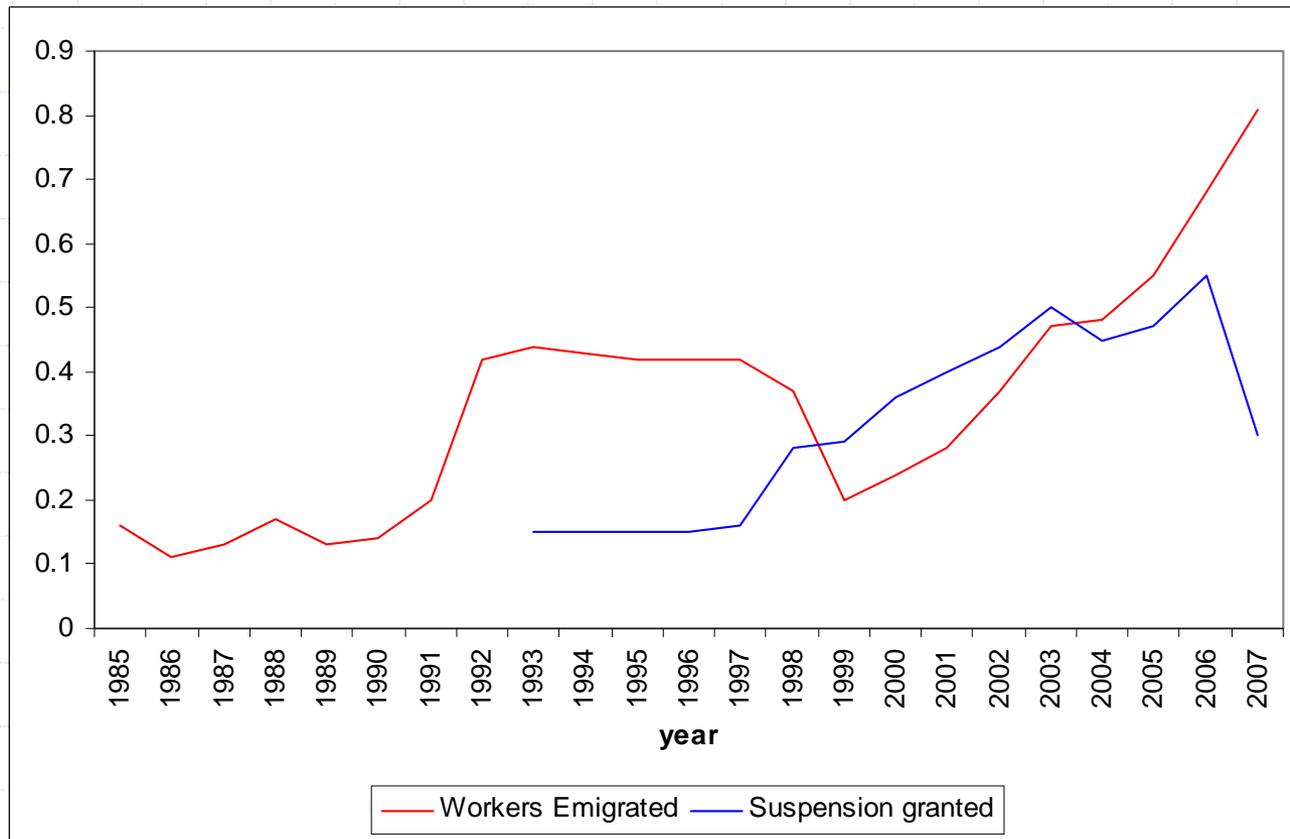
INTRODUCTION

- ❖ India, one of the largest manpower-exporting countries – about 10 million or 1 percent of India's population
- ❖ Half of them are in the Gulf countries
- ❖ It tops the list of recipient countries of migrant remittances with \$ 40 billion in 2008 – 3 percent of GNP

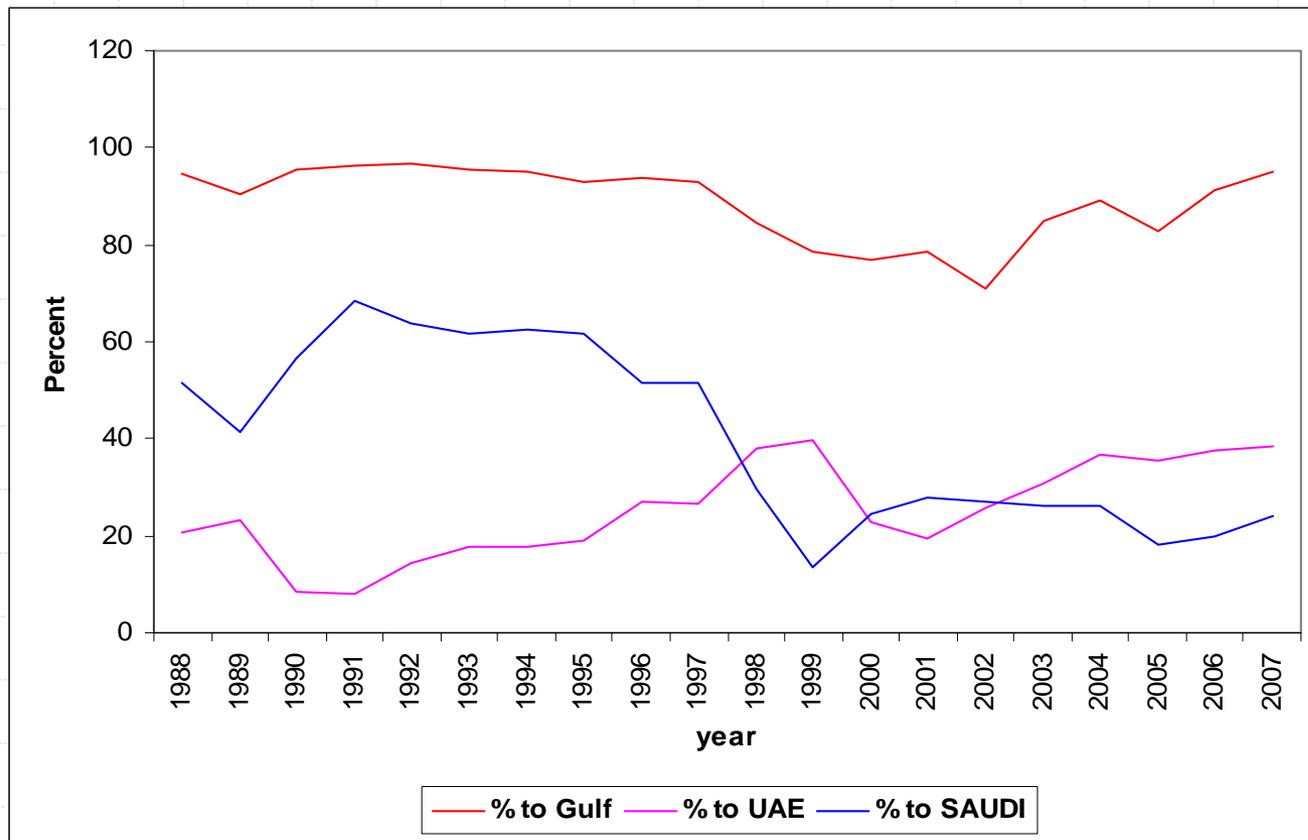
Section 22 of the The Emigration Act 1983

- ◆ “No citizen of India shall emigrate unless he obtains under this chapter from the protector of emigrants authorization in the prescribed manner”
- ◆ However, thirteen categories of persons have been exempted from this requirement (below 18 years, above 50 years, completed 10 years of schooling)
- ◆ Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) Passport holders – “Any” country
- ◆ Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders – “Exempted” for ECNR countries
- ◆ ECNR countries - 174
- ◆ ECR countries – 18 countries (Gulf, Malaysia, Jordan, Libya, Iraq is banned) – Exemption Granted

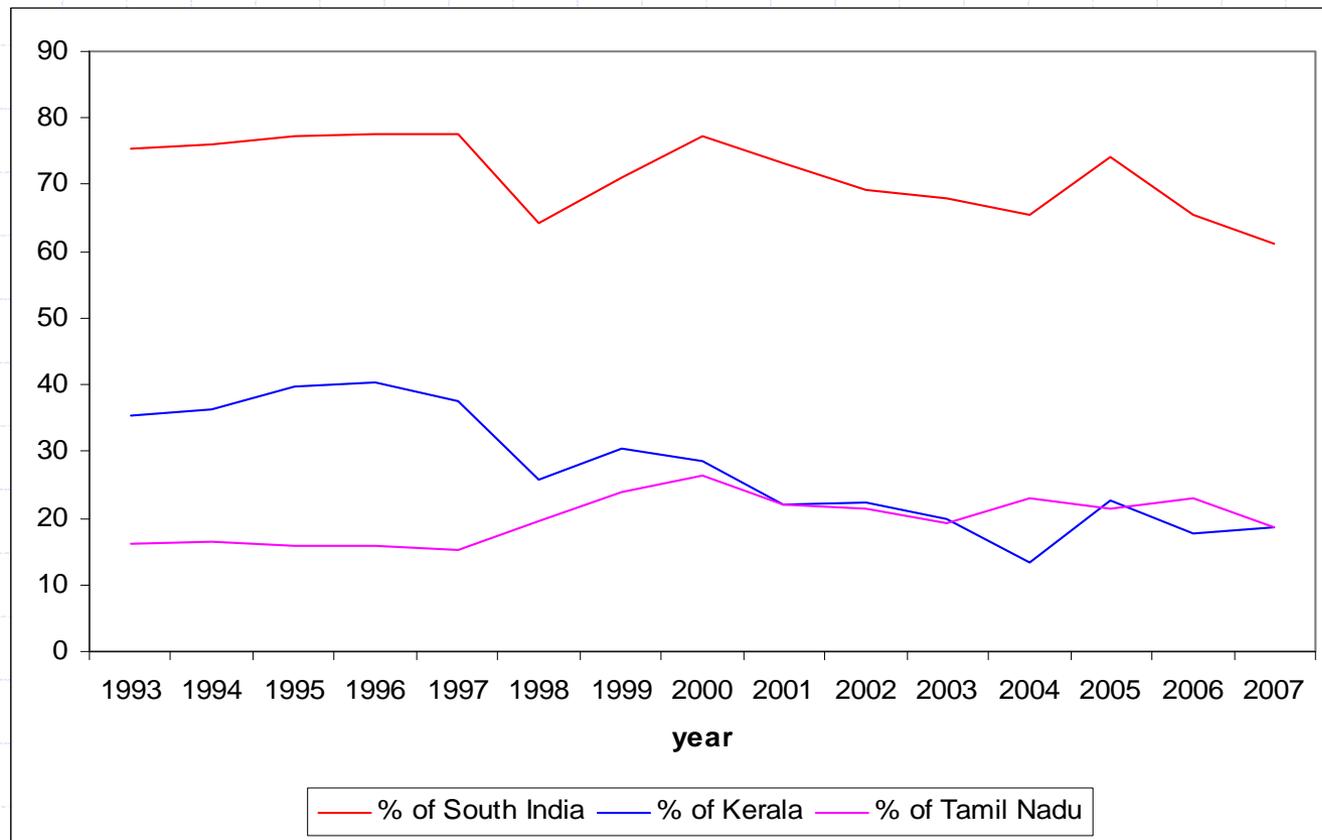
Workers Emigrated and Suspension Granted, 1985-2007 (in millions)



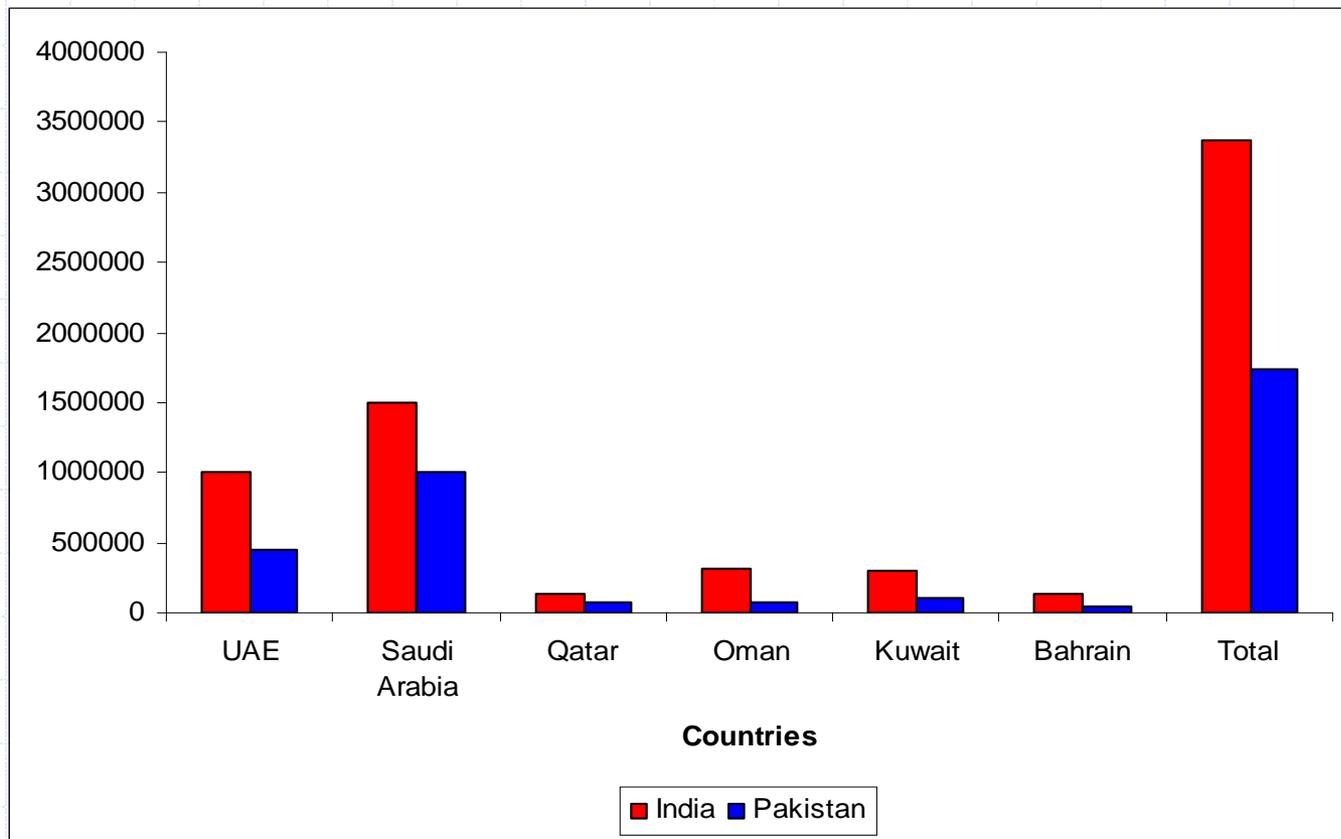
Destination of Indian Emigrants, 1988-2007 (Percent)



Emigrants by States in India, 1993-2007 (percent)



Emigrants in Gulf: India and Pakistan, 2002



Migration Surveys in Kerala

- Kerala Migration Survey, 1998
- Kerala Migration Survey, 2003
- Kerala Migration Survey 2007
- Kerala Migration Survey 2008

Kerala Migration Surveys

- **Samples from 200 Panchayats in Kerala**
- **Random sampling with probability proportional to the number of HH**
- **50 households in each panchayats: 10000**

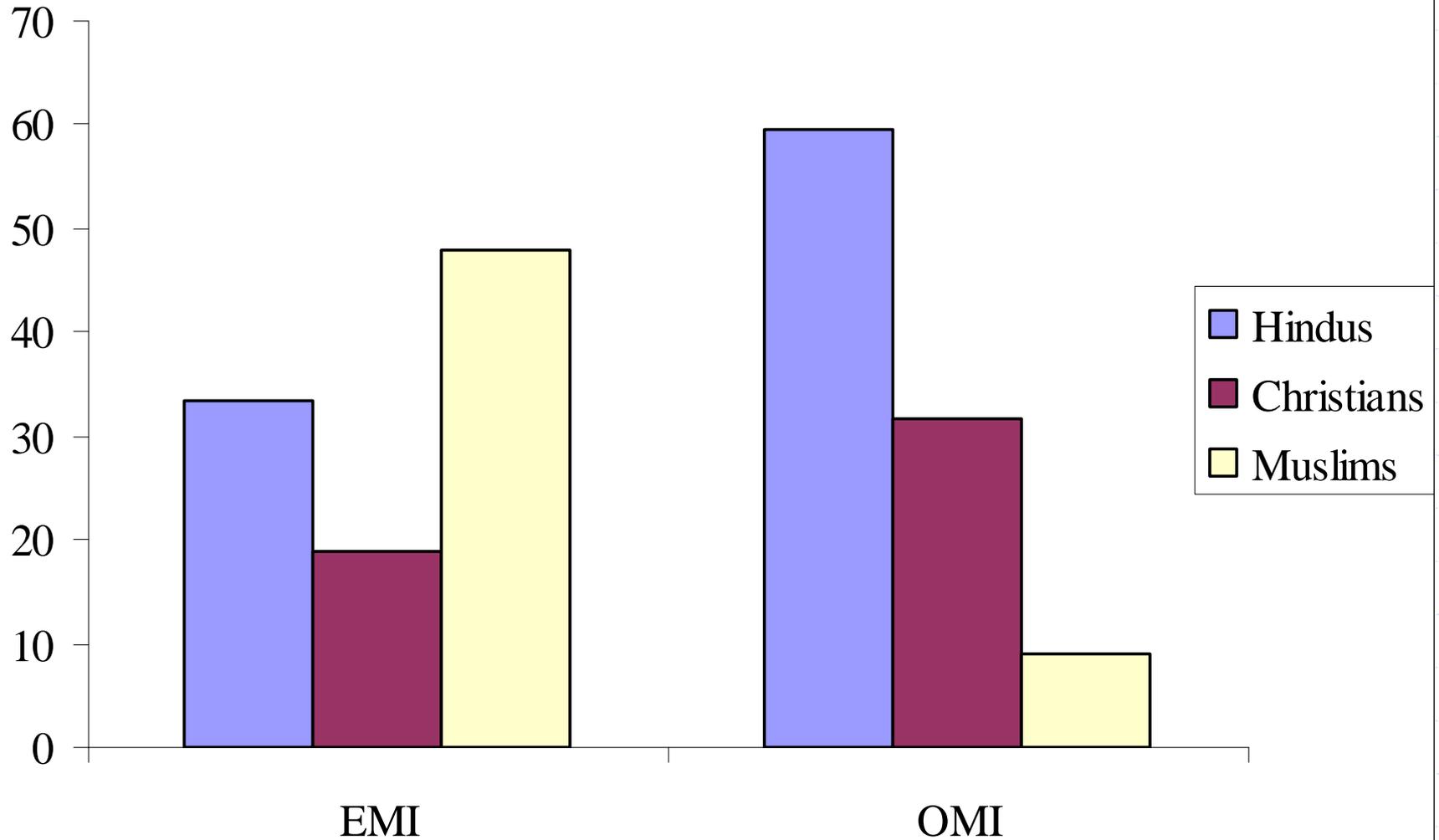
Table 1: EMI, REM, NRK, 1998-2007

	EMI		REM		NRK	
	Lakhs	Per 100hh	Lakhs	Per 100 hh	Lakhs	Per 100 hh
1998	13.62	21.4	7.39	11.6	21.01	33.0
2003	18.38	26.7	8.94	13.0	27.32	39.7
2007	18.47	24.5	8.89	11.7	27.34	36.2

Table 2: Emigrants and Out Migrants by Religious Affiliation, 2007 (Percent of Total)

	EMI	OMI
Hindus	33.3	58.9
Christians	18.5	32.3
Muslims	48.2	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Emigrants and Out-migrants by Religious Groups



Percent of HHs With an NRK

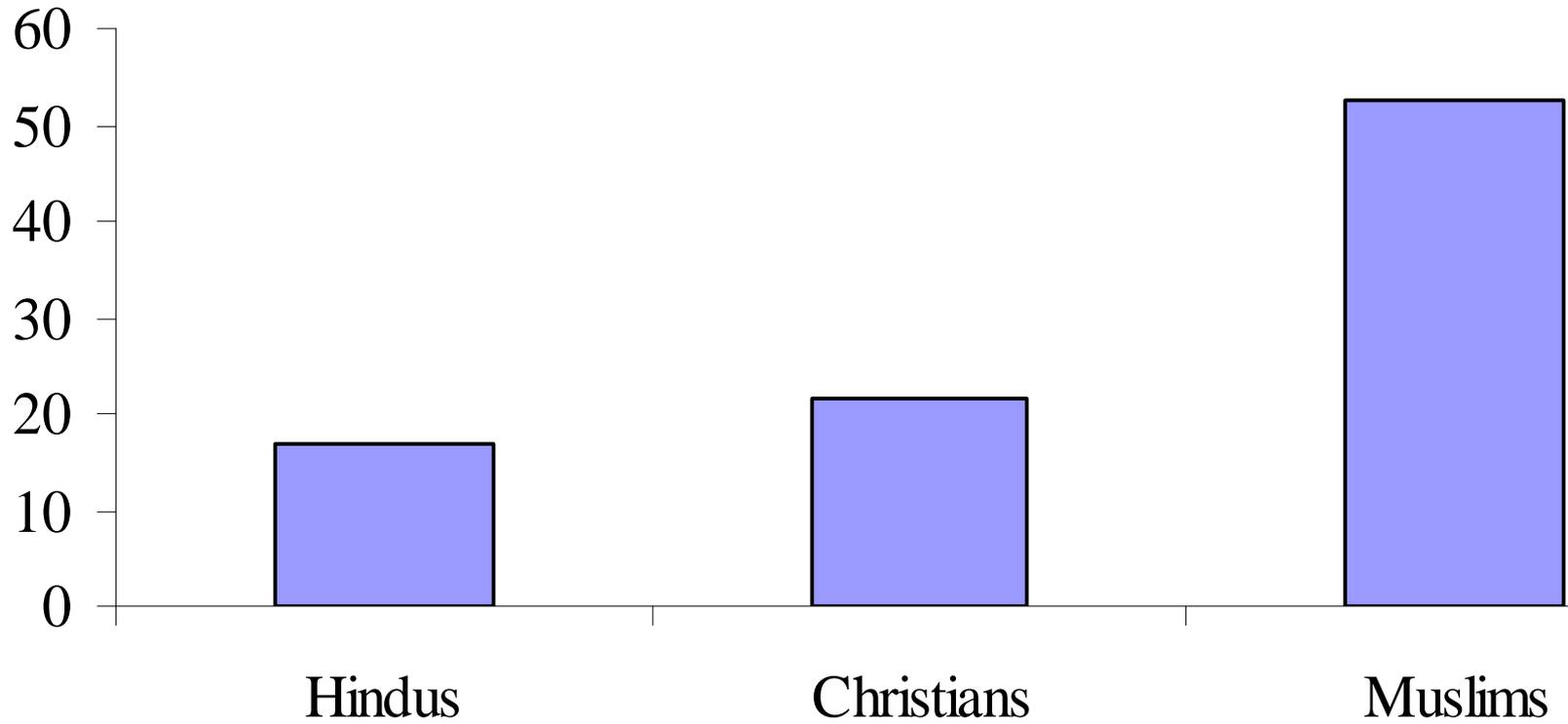
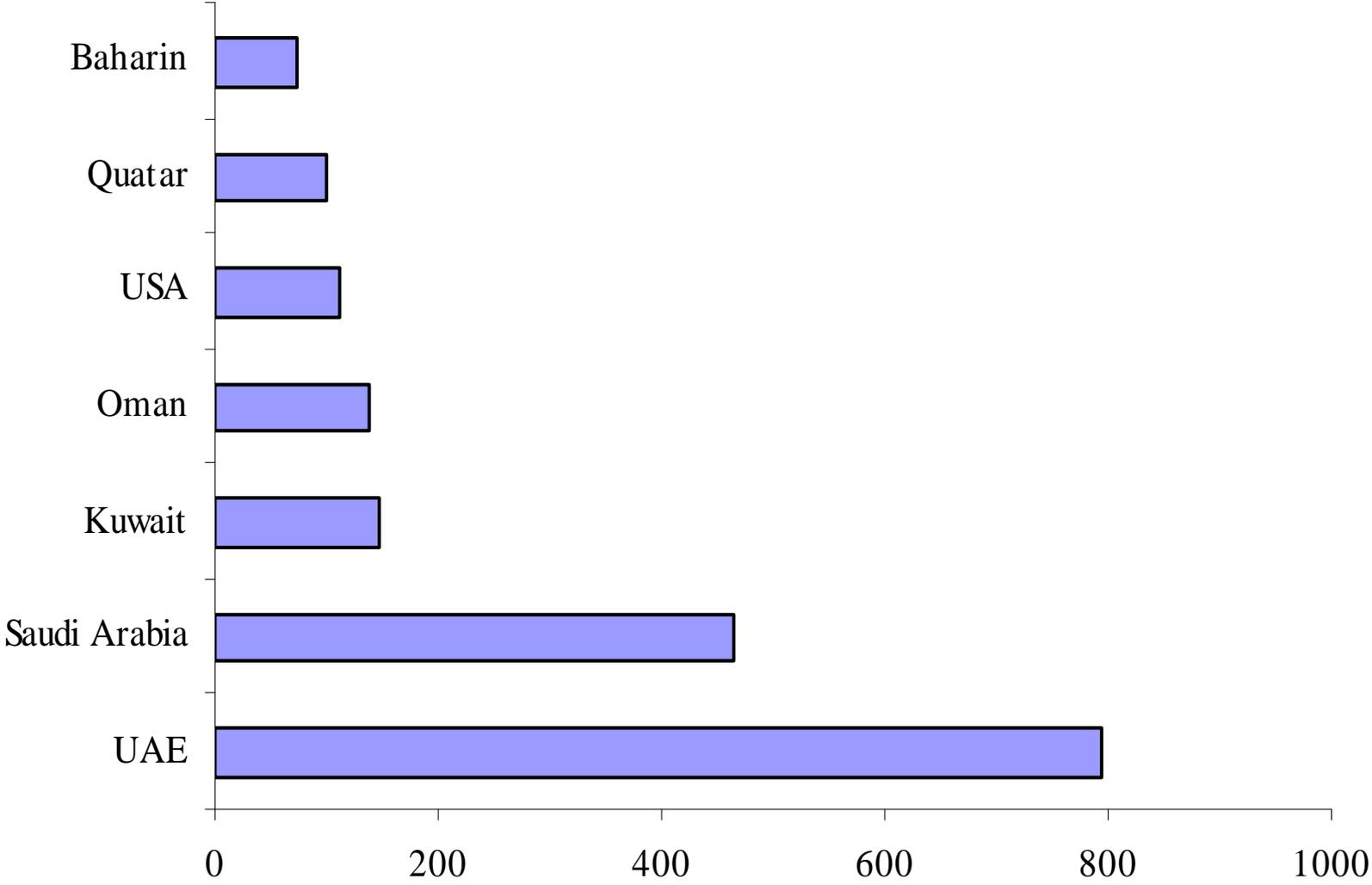


Table 3: Principal Districts of Origin of Emigrants from Kerala, 2007

	In Lakhs
Malappuram	3.36
Kannur	2.54
Thrissur	1.71
Trivandrum	1.89
TOTAL	18.47

Kerala Emigrants by Destination



Life at Gulf and Unemployment

- **Average age of Emigrants: 28**
- **Average age at return: 44**
- **Life in Gulf = 16 years**
- **Unemployment Rate before**
- **emigration: 22.9**
- **Unemployment rate after return: 2.9**

Table 4: Percent of Women Among Emigrants, by Community

	% Females	
	2007	2003
Hindus	16.0	17.2
Christians	28.4	32.1
Muslims	8.0	8.0
Total	14.4	16.8

Female Migration

- Proportion of never married: 17 percent in 1998, 25 percent in 2003 and 40 percent in 2007
- Qualified women such as nurse migration is on the increase
- 33 percent of females were degree holders at the time of emigration compared to just 14 percent for men

Table 5: "Gulf Wives" By religious Groups (As percentage of)

	Number (in 1000s)	Percent	Married Women
Hindus	366	29.9	5.6
Christians	118	9.6	5.3
Muslims	739	60.5	22.9
Total	1223	100.0	10.2

Percent of "Gulf Wives" by Community

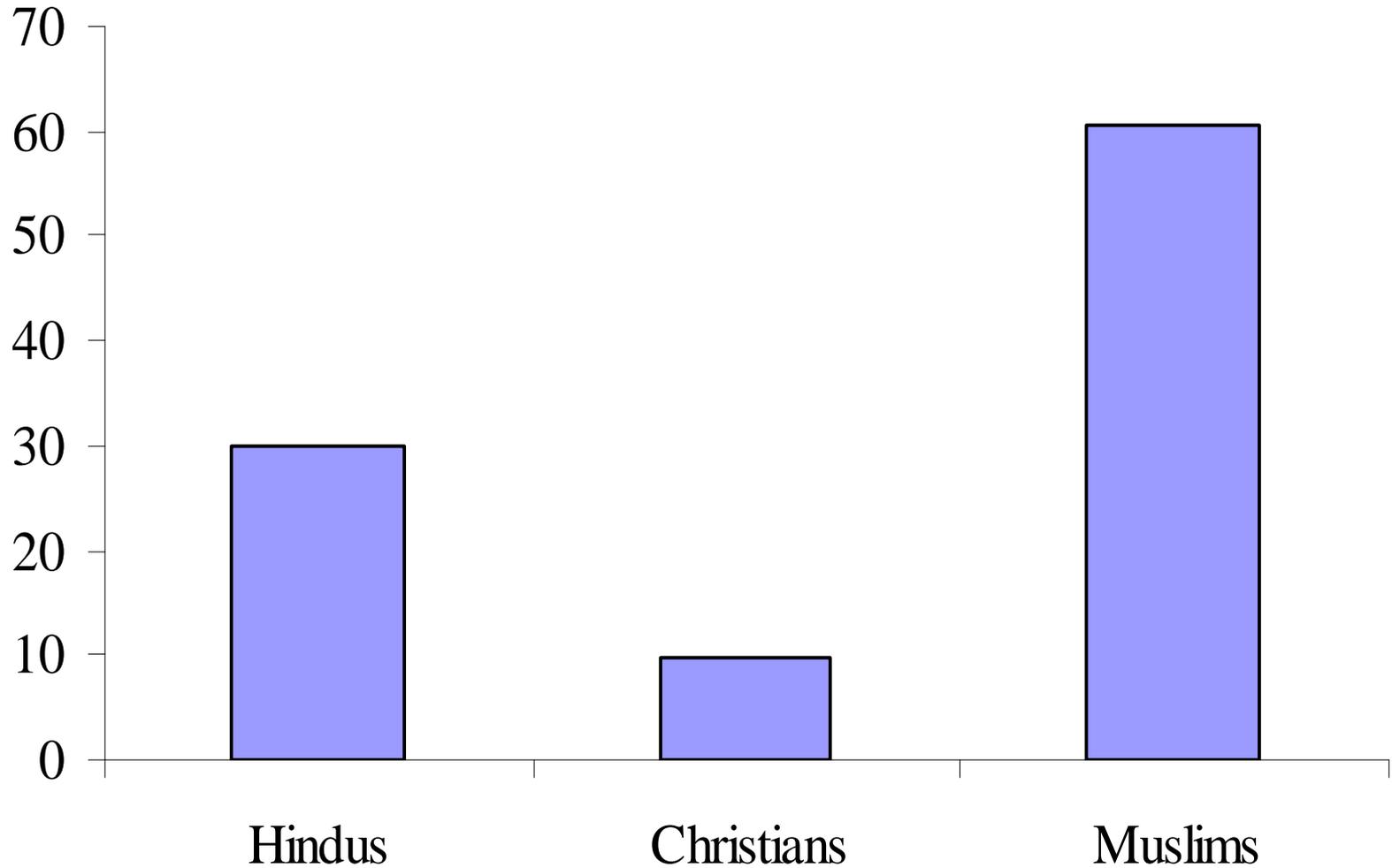


Table 6: Total Workers Remittances to Kerala

Year	(In 1000s of Crores)
1998	13.65
2003	18.465
2007	24.525

Percent Distribution Remittances by Religious Groups

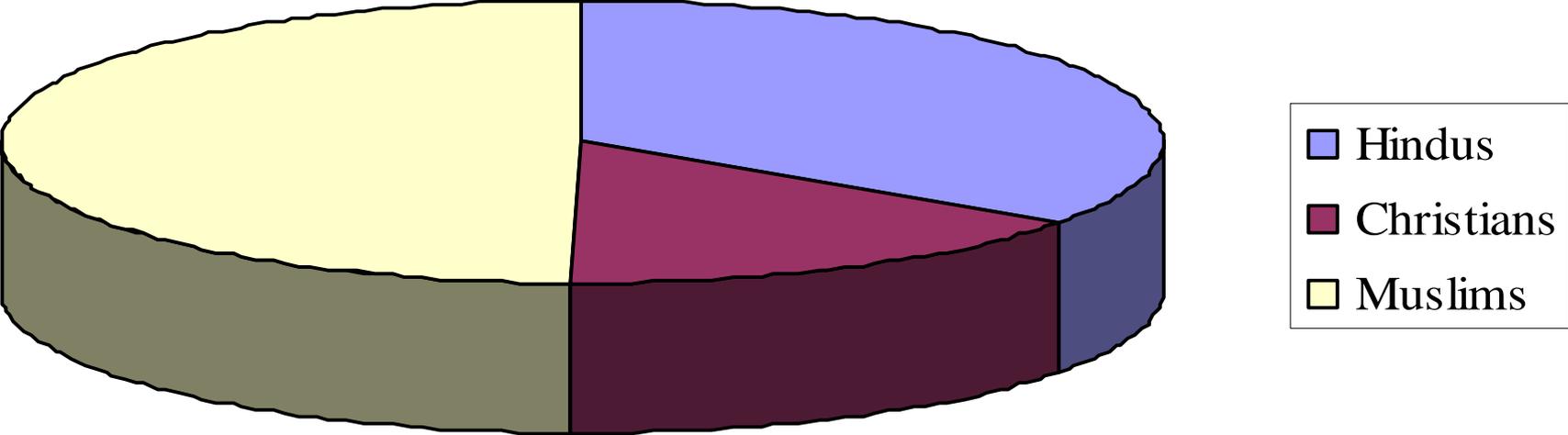


Table 7: Impact of Remittances on NSDP

	NSDP	Remittances	Remittances as % of NSDP
2007	121410	24.524	20.2
2003	83783	18.465	22.0
1998	53552	13.652	25.5

Impact on Remittances

- **Remittances – 1.28 times more than the government revenue receipt**
- **Remittances – 4 times more than the transfers from the central government**
- **Remittances – 1.5 times more than the government expenditure**
- **Remittances – 15 and 18 times more than the receipts from cashew, marine products**

Maturity in Migration

- **Third wave of emigration (stability in emigration partly contributed age structural transition)**
- **Halt in internal migration (from Kerala)**
- **Remittances still on (being leader in the Gulf emigration, able to bargain for better wages, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat also taking part in large way in Gulf)**



THANK YOU