

FNRI GLOBAL

(A JOINT CULTURE & UNITY OF NRI'S)

Reg No: 72/IV/2023

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FNRI Global (Federation on Non-Resident Indians-Global)
is a Global Organization which is intended to obtain NRI's
rights with a legal perspective and sanctity.

FNRI

**CHOONDAL
PANCHAYATH**

SURVEY

2025

FNRI Survey Insights

Final Report – Released: June 20, 2025

Distributed to:

- Honourable External Affairs Ministry
- Honourable Protector of Emigrants
- Honourable District Collector's Office, Thrissur
- International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD)
- Centre for Development Studies (CDS)
- Choondal Panchayath Office
- Nanma Charitable Trust (Qatar-based)
- Print and Digital Media
- Excerpts on Social Media

Report prepared by Basheer PA

1. Introduction

The Organization

FNRI – Global is an organization established for Non-resident Indians, and it is designed as per the rules of the land and the constitution of India. The Trust is in existence as per the Charitable ACT of India. It was formed under the leadership of Mr.Kamarudheen Brahmakkulam.

The organization is intended to serve the community without discrimination of caste, creed, colour, race, or gender, and those who go abroad for their livelihood, stay there for long years, and serve their motherland with their competence and money. The NRI community that stays for at least 2 years abroad and comes back and settles back in India is also considered as Pravasis by FNRI.

They are one of the major contributors to the country's economy. Such a community has been neglected or sidelined for so many years. FNRI intends to solve this denial of justice with a legal sanctity.

For more details about FNRI Global, kindly refer www.fnriglobal.com

2. Survey background

We had approached the authorities asking for the details of the Pravasi community, but there are no such records available on any official platforms. In that context, we planned to conduct a survey in one panchayath of Kerala, and it can be simulated in other Panchayaths of the country. Here we are with the first phase of the Report.

The “FNRI Survey Insights” report presents findings from a comprehensive field survey conducted in Choondal Panchayath, Thrissur District, Kerala State, focusing on expatriate households, their life and background. The survey, commissioned by the FNRI Trust, gathered demographic, economic, and social data to evaluate the living conditions and needs of expatriates and their families.

All relevant permissions were secured from the Choondal Panchayath Office and the Thrissur District Collectorate.

3. Purpose and Vision

This pioneering survey aims to:

- Understand the real-life conditions of expatriates and their families.
- Identify areas where FNRI and supporting bodies can intervene meaningfully.
- Develop a replicable model for data-driven community support applicable to panchayats across India.

Although the report has been made available to the public, access to the raw data is restricted to ensure responsible use and interpretation.

4. Objectives of the Survey

- Establish a baseline of expatriate-related data where none previously existed.
- Support program planning for underprivileged segments of the expatriate diaspora.
- Facilitate future surveys at the state and national level, with the Choondal model as a template.
- Offer support and technology (App platform) for similar initiatives in other regions.

Key focus areas included:

- Household links to overseas education, employment, and entrepreneurship.
- Identification and profiling of expatriate returnees.
- Based on the data, we would like to take our efforts forward to establish legal sanctity and recognition of the NRI community
- Exclusive projects designed for the Expat community utilizing the manpower of the NRI community in the territory

5. Courtesy



Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar

An economist and a highly respected figure in the academic circle. Previously served as the Department Head of Economics at Sreekrishna College, Guruvayur



Dr. B.A. Prakash

Former Professor and HOD of Economics at University of Kerala,

Member at IIMAD(International Institute for migration and Development)

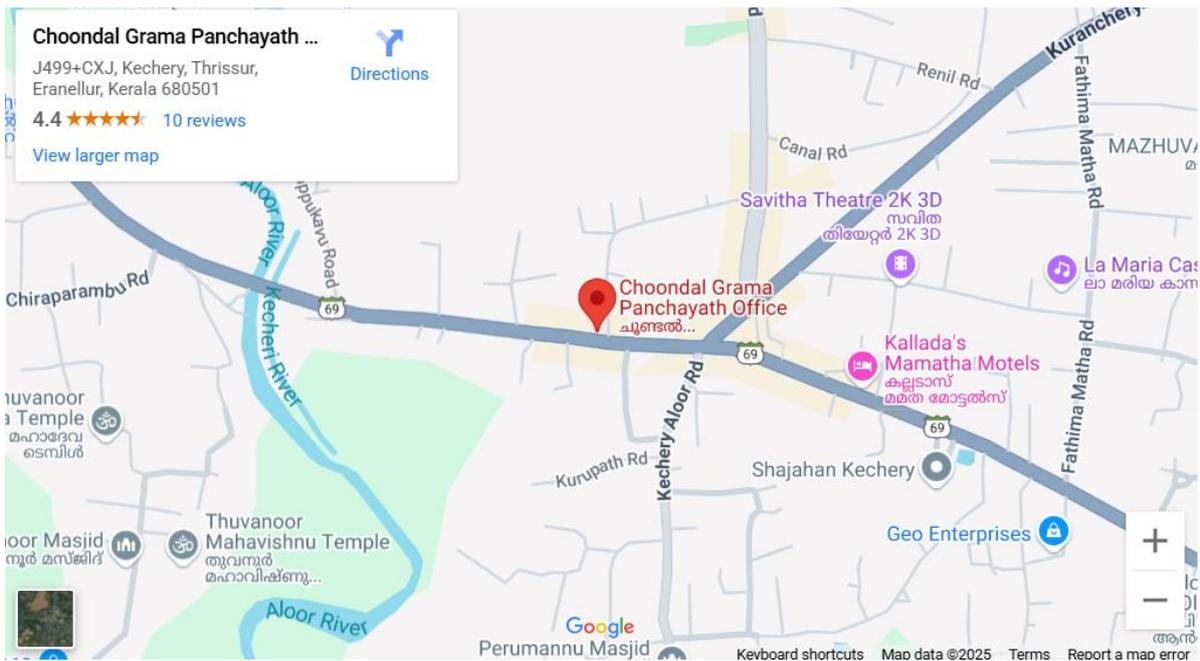


Adv. Bevinja Abdullah

Senior Journalist in the Gulf region , NRI
Activist and Legal Advisor

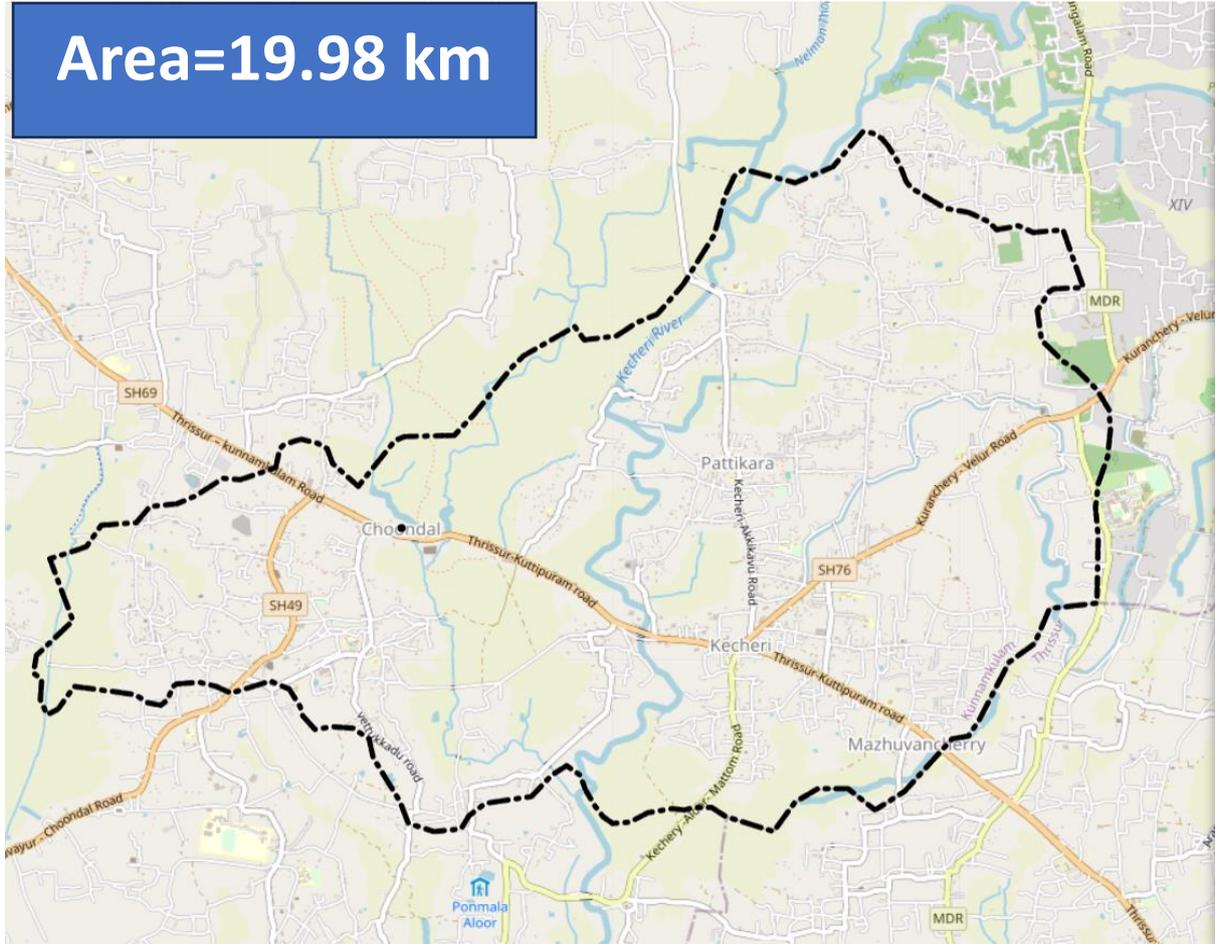
6. Choondal Panchayath Overview

- **District:** Thrissur
- **Block Panchayat:** Chowannur
- **Area:** 19.98 sq. km
- **Wards:** 18 (as of May 2025; may increase to 20 in upcoming ward divisions before next LSG Elections)
- **Total Households:** 7,606
- **Population:** 32,436 (M: 15,209; F: 17,227)
- **SC Population:** 3,153
- **Population Density:** 1,623/km²
- **Villages:** 3
- **Major town:** Kechery
- **Panchayath Office at:** Kechery
- **Major Road:** Thrissur -Kunnamkulam
- **Pin code:** 680501, 680502



Choondal Panchayt Sketch

Area=19.98 km



7. Panchayath Statistics

Figures as per the website records of the Choondal Grama Panchayath

Grama Panchayats	Total No of Households	Total Population	Male	Female	SC Population
Choondal	7606	32436	15209	17227	3153

Total Population	Density of Population	Wards	No of House Holds	Block Panchayat	Taluk	Revenue District	Parliament	Assembly	Villages
32436	1623.42	18	7606	Chowannoor	Kunnamkulam	Thrissur	Thrissur	Manalur	3

8. Survey Dynamics

- **Duration:** October to December 2024 (3 months)
- **Methodology:** Direct household visits using structured questionnaires.
- **Technology:** Custom Mobile App developed by Cookee App LLP, Perinthalmanna
- Survey Format is designed for the survey, which translates to the Application.



Project Proposal

Survey Management Platform

CLIENT

Mr. Basheer P.A -FNRI, Trichur

Connect with Us



Email
Hello@cookee.io

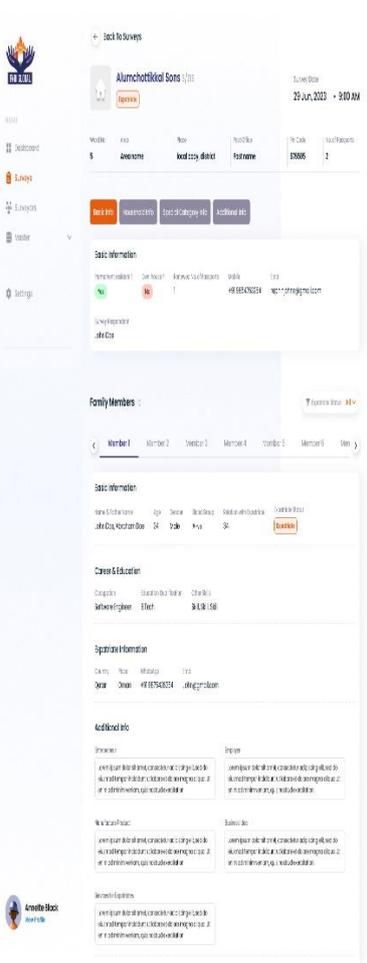
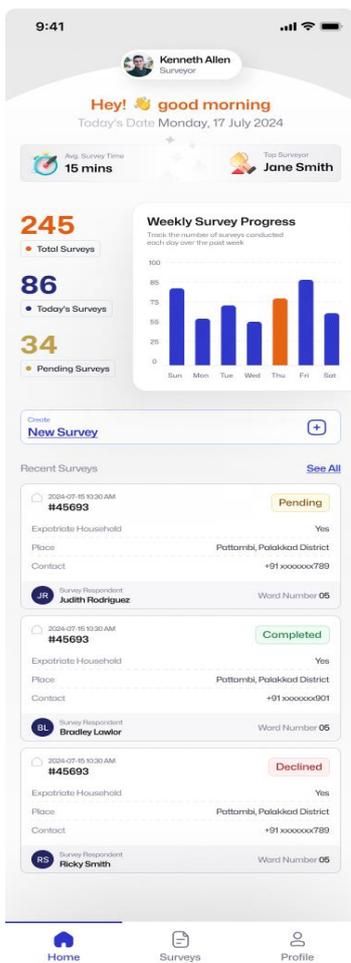
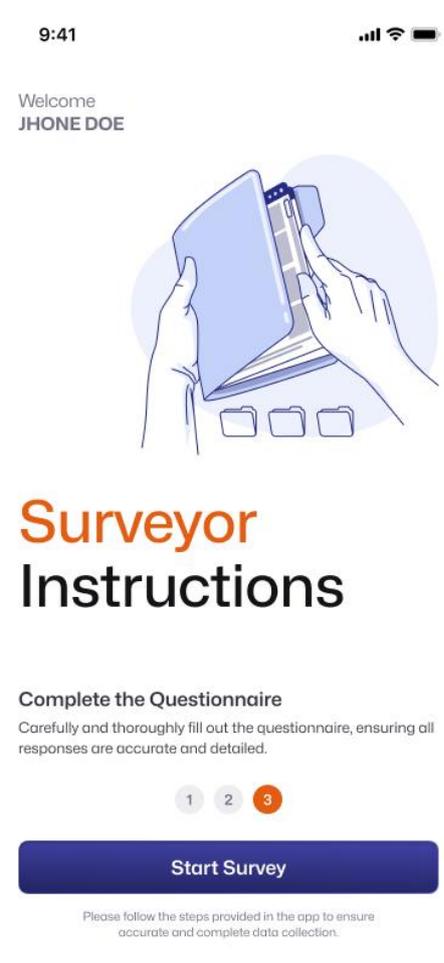
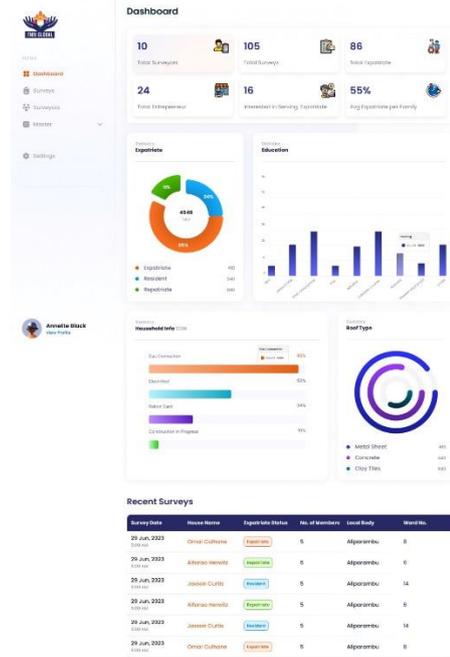
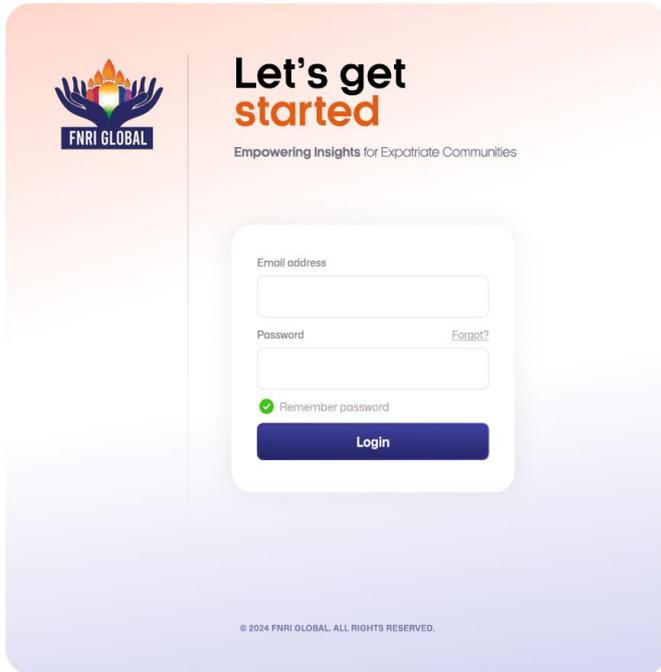


Phone
[+91 999 57 68 540](tel:+919995768540)



Website
cookee.io





9. Training Programs for survey execution:

- **Gadget Management:** App and data entry simulations
- **Interpersonal Training:** Survey etiquette, Q&A handling
- **Training Venue:** conducted at MMLP School Pattikara as a boot camp with the help of the School Manager, Mr. Abdulla
- **System Training:** Data-related training by Cookee App Project Manager Jibin
- **Management Training:** Trust Secretary Basheer PA

Core Team:

- **Project Lead:** Kamarudheen Brahmakkulam (Chairman, FNRI Trust)
- **Survey Design & Reporting:** Basheer PA (Secretary, FNRI Trust)
- **Tech & Back-end Support:** Jibin (Cookee App), Salim PA (FNRI Member)
- **Team Supervisor:** Ramya Krishnan
- **Logistics:** Anwar (FNRI Member)

Field Surveyors:

- 1) Ramya Krishna,
- 2) Viji Shaju,
- 3) Anju Suresh,
- 4) Sreejitha, S
- 5) Sajeena,
- 6) Susmitha Arun,
- 7) Mahima,

The survey team started-off from the residence of Hamza Haji Payyur at Choondal with FNRI committee members, well-wishers from Choondal Panchayath



The team gathered at the Trust Secretary's residence at Kechery during the survey in the Ward XIV



10. Glimpses of Survey



11. Key Findings

Expatriate Household Insights:

- **Total Households Visited:** 7,106
 - **Surveys Completed:** 2,884
 - **Estimated Expatriate Households:** 3,703 (including unavailable and closed households)
 - **Completion Rate:** Over 80%
 - **Expatriate Households (%):** ~52% of total households
 - **Returnees Settled in Choondal:** 1,467
 - **Residents Abroad:** 2,007 individuals
 - **Families Fully Abroad:** 535
-

12. Vulnerable Groups Identified:

Group	Count	Percentage
Widow Households	194	Husbands passed away during their pravasi time
Destitute Households	26	There is no one to support (No children, old people who are unable to find their livelihood)
Poor Households	222	Do not have income and are suffering from acute diseases
Differently Abled (special needs)	48	Children with Autism, limited mobility, etc.
Patients at Home	280	Unable to move out of home, seeking palliative support

These groups require immediate welfare focus and tailored interventions.

13. Demographics & Assets:

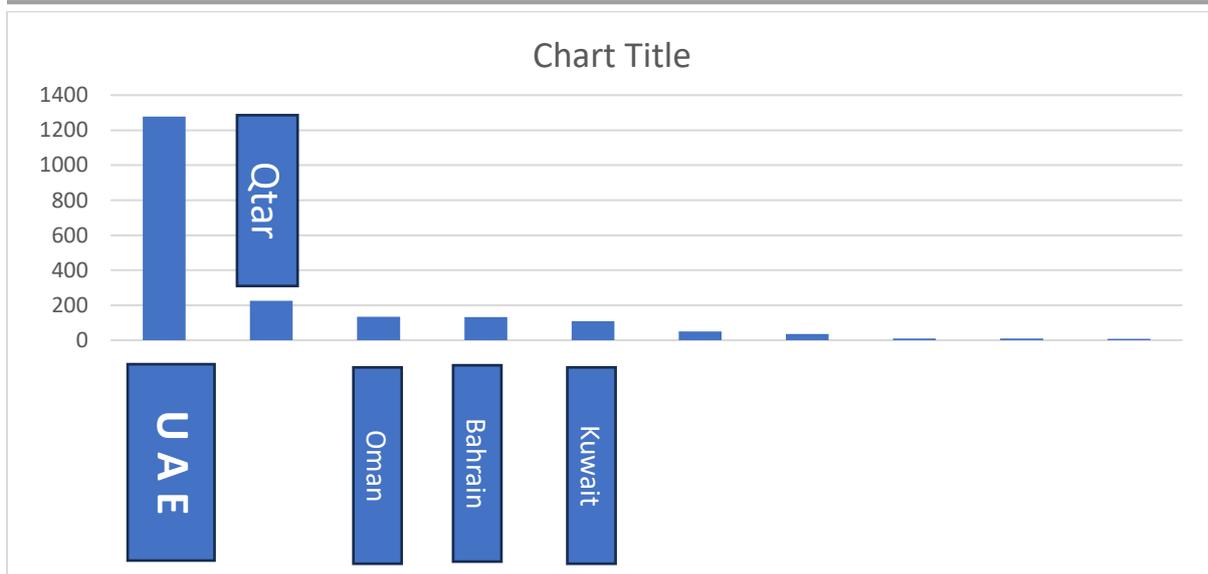
- No of Households = 2894+ 535 (abroad)
- Permanent Resident = 2757+ 535 (abroad)
- Non-Permanent member = 137
- Own house =2439 _535
- Without own house =455
- **Gender Split (Expat):** Male: 6,118; Female: 5,716 + 535 family Members who are abroad for a long time
- **Children (<18 years):** 2,482
- **Active Passports:** ~11,697 (incl. renewals) + 535 families' passports + unreached respondent's passport
- **Gas Connections:** 3,281
- **Ration Cards:** 3,342 households
- **Electrification:** 100% among expat homes
- **Education (Expat):** 1,778 Bachelor's, 448 Master's + 535 Family education status to be added.
- **Female Graduates/Postgraduates:** 838 (50% of total graduates)

14. Socioeconomic Stratification:

- **Luxurious Expat Homes: 30%**
- **Semi-luxurious: 50%**
- **Low-income: 20%**

15. Top Destination Countries:

Country	Count	% of Total
UAE	1,277	63.6%
Qatar	226	11.3%
Oman	135	6.7%
Bahrain	133	6.6%
Kuwait	108	5.4%
KSA	51	2.5%
Others (UK, USA, Canada, etc.)	77	3.8%



Observations

- 1) As per this survey out of 2007 counted expats, 64% of expats reside in the UAE
- 2) 11% belongs to Qatar
- 3) 94% of Expatriates belong to one of the GCC countries
- 4) 535 Families members' status to be added

16. Distribution of NRI Households in Choondal Panchayat

Choondal Panchayath FNRI Survey			
Ward Number	Wards	Pravasi Household	Pravasi house without inhabitants
1	Payyoor (Pelakkat)	120	26
2	Choondal	80	27
3	Parannur	28	23
4	Parappur	129	27
5	Pattikkara	223	50
6	Chiranellur	101	37
7	Aayamukk	144	30
8	Manali	127	31
9	Thalakkottukar	94	26
10	Mazhuvanchery 1	47	26
11	Machuvanchery 2	61	18
12	Eranellur	68	26
13	Perumannu	96	25
14	Kechery	318	44
15	Thuvanoor	116	42
16	Vettukad	97	18
17	Thayamkavu	468	30
18	Payyur	567	29
		2884	535

- The most NRI households are found the most in Ward 18 and 17, with inhabitants 567 and 468 respectively
- An average of 30 households were found closed without any inhabitants in all 18 wards

17. Challenges Encountered

- Limited funds
- Initial delays in approvals
- Misinformation campaigns by vested interests
- Resistance from a few respondents' families
- High expectations for aid from the community

Despite these hurdles, the team maintained composure, kept timelines and demonstrated dedication and resilience.

18. Gratitude & Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

- **Cookee App Team:** For offering services at discounted rates and for their continuous support (Mr. Naseeb – MD Cookee App & Mr. Jibin – Project Manager)
- **Field Surveyors:** For their unwavering commitment
- **Nanma Charitable Trust:** For the partial sponsorship of the surveyor's compensation.
- **District Collector Krishna Teja IAS:** For prompt administrative backing
- **Choondal Panchayat:** For facilitating approvals
- **Respondent Families:** For their hospitality and cooperation
- **MMLP Schools:** Space provided for Meetings and Training (Mr. A. A. Abdullah)
- **FNRI District & Choondal Panchayath committee:** For their guidance and support
- **E-WELL News YouTube Channel (Habeb Kechery):** For the interview with Chairman Kamarudheen and spreading the news on all occasions.

19. Strategic Recommendations

Immediate Interventions (Target Groups):

Group	Support Areas
Widows, Destitutes, Poor	Education, Legal Aid, Pension Schemes
Differently Abled	Education, Legal Aid, Health Coverage

The ground reality: Destitutes and the Differently Abled community are waiting for a helping hand



20. Proposed Initiatives

We are envisaging a project to utilise the available manpower (skilled or unskilled, technical and strategic) through which we would like to support the entire Pravasi community to stand on their feet. We have started working on the plan below, and we share the overview here for your kind reference.

- **FNRI Expat/Pravasi Hub:** A holistic centre with:
 - NRI Helpline and contact point (taking initiative to pass information of NRIs to the FNRI diaspora.)
 - National-level Legal Support Cell
 - NRI Rehab Centre: A centre for NRI Veterans who can spend time together during the day, it might work as a day care centre (A plan is prepared)
 - Palliative Care Units (Ambulance service, Nurses' home visits, care for differently abled children/Special need children speciality centre)
 - Super-Speciality Clinics / Lab /Dialysis centre
 - Women & Children Hospital
 - Convention Centre/ Auditorium
 - Meeting Halls
 - Career, Legal, and Mentorship Cells
 - Publishing
 - Small-Scale Industry Units
 - FNRI MALL with INN (where NRIs from different corners of the country and abroad can come and spend time)
 - Agri projects to support organic production
 - Construction Projects
 - Designing
 - Other Projects with Revenue Generation Model as well as creating employment
- **Digital Support Platforms:**
 - Community grievance redressal system
 - Career guidance portal
 - Job portal dedicated to the Choondal NRI ecosystem

21. Data Management & Security

- **Platform:** (custom-built for FNRI)
 - **Storage:** Secured private server in association with Cookee
 - **Access:** Limited to FNRI Chairman, Secretary, and Cookee Admin
 - **Sharing Protocols:** Information will only be shared with authorised agencies under formal agreements
-

22. How can we improve the Next survey?

- **Survey elements:** we can add missing aspects of this survey, which are timely and relevant, and could be incorporated

E.g.: a) A Student who went for studies, whether they came back or settled there. It can count the rate of talent erosion.

b) Identify who has availed PR abroad

c) What are the legal issues the Pravasis face in India and abroad

d) Other relevant points concerning Pravasi grievances

23. Our Target Numbers in Kerala

Structure of Local Self-Government Institutions of Kerala

Sl. No.	Type of Institution	Number of Institutions	Number of Wards
1	District Panchayat	14	331
2	Block Panchayat	152	2080
3	Municipality	87	3078
4	Corporation	6	414
5	Grama Panchayat	941	15,962
	Total	1200	21,865

• What's Next – our Action Plan

- Starting the discussions with all stakeholders with similar interests and ready to associate
- Approaching the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India with a Projection of Data and bringing the issues to their kind attention
- Approaching the Protector General of Emigrants to have a word on the status of Migrants concerning this report.

24. Notes

- b) We have taken consent from all members who are shown in the pictures to include in this report.
- c) We will keep on adding the missing data from time to time as we receive from the missed out.
- d) We will be using this data for a projection analysis
- e) This survey can be considered as a random sampling of the pravasi status in Kerala for the time being, and the projections can be done
- f) We have completed the survey of 80% of the Total population, whereas the remaining 20% is yet to be surveyed, in which Pravasi members also must be there, which is to be added to the above numbers given.

25. Conclusion

This is a landmark initiative towards creating a structured, data-backed approach to understanding and supporting the expatriate community. FNRI aims to become a national model for community surveys, data-driven policymaking, and targeted interventions.

We remain committed to extending our support to similar initiatives nationwide and invite other panchayats and welfare groups to collaborate in replicating this impactful effort.

With sincere regards,
FNRI TRUST



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Trust Secretary:



Basheer PA | bashirpa@gmail.com