

ISDG - Bodhigram Foundation Lecture on 'Kerala Remittance Economy and Student Migration'

Date: 31st January 2025

Venue: Press Club, Thiruvananthapuram

Organized by: Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG) in collaboration with Bodhigram Foundation

The ISDG - Bodhigram Foundation Lecture on 'Kerala Remittance Economy and Student Migration' was successfully conducted on 31st January 2025 at the Press Club, Thiruvananthapuram. The event featured an insightful lecture by Prof. S. Irudayarajan, a distinguished scholar in migration studies, who provided a comprehensive analysis of Kerala's remittance economy and the patterns of student migration.

The session began with a warm welcome by Anil Kumar P.Y., Program Coordinator, who introduced the theme and emphasized its relevance to Kerala's socio-economic landscape. Prof. S. Irudayarajan delivered an insightful lecture on Kerala's migration patterns, focusing on its remittance-driven economy. He highlighted the state's reliance on remittances from the Gulf and other regions, discussing their contributions to Kerala's GDP and economic stability.

He examined the socio-economic impacts of migration, such as labor market shifts, family separations, and reintegration challenges for return migrants. He proposed policy measures, including skill development and vocational training, to reduce dependence on remittances and create sustainable economic alternatives. A key topic was student migration, where he presented insights from the Kerala Migration Survey 2023. He analyzed the rise in students pursuing international education due to limited local opportunities and discussed gender dynamics, noting the increasing participation of women.

Prof. Irudayarajan compared internal and international student migration, providing a detailed analysis of the factors influencing these choices. He also addressed the role of education consultants, government initiatives, and private agencies in facilitating international student migration. John Samuel, President - ISDG, then shared his perspectives, adding socio-economic and policy insights.

An interactive session followed, with students and the public engaging in discussions on migration, employment, and education policies. Sanjo Sabu, Program Associate, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to speakers, attendees, and organizers. The lecture served as a platform for meaningful dialogue on Kerala's migration economy, emphasizing the need for comprehensive policy interventions to address migration challenges while promoting sustainable economic development. The ISDG - Bodhigram Foundation remains committed to fostering such research-driven discussions.