

Migrant workers in Kerala want to study

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KOCHI: Literate Kerala is influencing the migrant labour force in the state to learn. Many have expressed keenness in studying Malayalam, Hindi and English by planning their daily schedule in such a way that they can enter the world of knowledge.

According to a model survey of migrants living in the Perumbavoor municipality, conducted by the state literacy mission, 86.24% expressed their desire to study and were willing to attend classes.

The survey was an initiative by the mission to identify illiterate migrant labourers and help them become literate. While none could write in the Malayalam language, many could not write in Hindi too. They do have

some knowledge of basic arithmetic.

Among the migrants, five persons who have studied above Class X expressed willingness to teach their local language to fellow migrants. However, 13.76% of respondents expressed disinterest in attending classes as they have to go in search of work and there had no free time at all.

When asked about the timings of their study, about 65.71% showed interest in attending evening classes and 32.79% preferred night classes. On holidays, a majority of 53.81% preferred evening classes while 26.18 % wanted day classes.

The survey was done with the help of 300 students of MEC college, Marampilly on four days from January 26 to January 29. A total of 3,211 migrants were surveyed. The respondents also included those who are staying outside Perumbavoor limits but working in the area.