ABSTRACT

A traditional Islamic knowledge system in Kerala (the southernmost state of India) has existed as a very dynamic source of Muslim culture and religiosity in the region, throughout the last five centuries. Its networks have strongly embedded among most of the local Muslim population. The classical educational system, known as “dars” had made the transmission of Islamic traditions reachable to the wider Muslim mass through a variety of processes. “Dars” was also one of the most influential medium of the community-formation among them. For the last three decades, there has been a trend of steady migration to gulf countries among the Muslims. This migration has been an engine of social, political, religious and economic change among them. This has, in effect, massively changed the way in which Islamic knowledge production and distribution, networking and community formation work among Kerala Muslims.

At this conjuncture, the proposed paper will make an endeavor to understand the genealogy of this changes and will try to understand how migration to Gulf countries has changed the traditional knowledge system, how is its impact on the content and format and institutional structures of the religious knowledge dissemination and how Kerala’s Muslim knowledge networks have moved from a deep-rooted local transmission into a trans-global phenomena? For this, the study will take Markazu Ssaqafathi Ssunniyya, a well known religious institute based in Kerala which itself is a transparent product of this massive transformation, as an example.

Bio
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