

Vulnerability of HIV/AIDS among Young Nepalese Male Labour Migrants

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Background

- Migration has been a constant feature of South Asian culture and economy for thousands of years
- Annually more than 200 million people migrate within and between countries in the region (UNDP, 2001)

Background (contd...)

- HIV and migration does not have a linear cause and effect relationship
- Various factors can lead to social and sexual practices that make migrants more susceptible to HIV exposure

Background (contd...)

- Migratory movements of Nepalese workers have grown rapidly in the last two decades
- Migration to India is largely not documented due to the open border
- Estimates have shown that Nepalese working in India range up to 3 million (HMG, 2002, Seddon et al 2002, Thieme, 2002)

Background (contd...)

- A recently conducted Integrated Bio-Behavioral Surveillance (BSS) study among labour migrants revealed that experience of at least one STI symptom was reported by about 8 percent of the labour migrants
- HIV prevalence of 1.1% to 2.8 % in two regions studied (NCASC/USAID/FHI, 2006)

Rationale

- One third of the country's population consists of young people
- Vulnerabilities and special needs of the young people has been largely ignored
- The BSS focused only on the prevalence of HIV and STIs
- More information is needed on the social and economic determinants that create this risk among young migrant workers

Objective

- To investigate the range of sexual practices, factors that lead to these sexual practices and the level of risk perception of contracting HIV/AIDS among young male Nepalese migrant labourers.
- It also aims to investigate the spouses' perception towards contracting HIV from their husbands.

Research questions

- What are the factors that increase the vulnerability of HIV among young Nepalese migrant workers?
- What is the range of sexual practices among Nepalese migrant workers living in India?
- What is their perceived risk of contracting HIV?
- What is their spouses' perceived risk of contracting HIV from their husband?

Study Design and Methodology

- A combination of both qualitative and quantitative research techniques
- **First phase:** Interviews with key informants
- **Second phase:** Workshop with young men in the community and semi-structured interview with wives of young migrant men
- **Third phase:** Survey with young migrant men and in-depth interviews with young migrant men

Study Design and Methodology

Study Area: 2 transit sites, 2 districts in Nepal



Study Design and Methodology

Study Area

- Two cities in any of the 5 states (Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Gujarat and Himachal) where the concentration of Nepalese migrant labourers are highest

Study Design and Methodology

Study Population

- Young migrant male workers aged 15-24 years working in India for the past three months
- Young men in the community
- Key informants
- Wives of the migrant labourers

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

Key informant interviews

- International organizations (ILO, IOM, FHI, UNAIDS)
- Ministry of Labour
- Nepalese Labour Associations in India
- Information on list of other organizations working with migrant labourers will be obtained
- Purpose: Selection of the sites
- Sample size: 15-20 key informants

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

Workshop with young men in the community

- Young men who are living in the community
- Young migrant men
- Purpose: To identify the ways of living in the place of migration, health needs, typical patterns of sexual relationships, health care seeking behaviour and their perceived consequences of involving in such type of behaviour and designing of questionnaire and guideline
- Sample size: 2 workshops with 18-20 participants each

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

- A list of 20-25 young men will be prepared with the help of local key informants such as youth leaders, young men in the youth clubs and other local key informants in the area.
- Visit these young men and ask for consent for participation.
- Careful considerations will be made while selecting these young men with regards to their age, ethnicity, education and other background characteristics.

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

Semi-Structured Interviews

- Wives of young migrant workers
- Purpose: to collect information on their perception towards risk of contracting HIV from their husband
- Sample Size: 20 women in each district
- These women need not necessarily be the wives of the migrant workers included in the study.

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

Individual structured face-to-face interview (Surveys)

- Individual interviews will be conducted with young migrant men aged 15-24
- Purpose: To understand the following issues but will not be confined only to these issues:
 - Substance abuse
 - Practice of casual sex and number and type of sex partners
 - Risk perception about contracting HIV
 - Access to and utilization of health services

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

Sample size: Young men in the two Indian cities:

- A total of **435 young labour migrants** will be interviewed.

Sample size: Young men at the border sites

- The exact estimate of the men going to India through any of the transit points are not available right now. Will be calculated later in order to include a representative sample.

Research tools, sample size and sampling procedure

In-depth interviews

- Young migrant men living in the two Indian cities who have reported high risk behaviour during the structured interview
- Sample size: 20-25 men will be interviewed in-depth.
- Purpose: To gain understanding of :
 - Types of social and sexual networks
 - Emotional and mental health needs of young migrant workers
 - Health care seeking behaviour of the young migrant men
 - Perceptions of the young migrant men as to how their needs can be addressed

Data management and Analysis

- **Survey**: Structured questionnaire will be coded and entered into SPSS.
- **Qualitative data**: The semi-structured and in-depth interviews will be transcribed in Nepali and translated into English.
- Major themes and concepts will be identified
- Interviews will be coded in ATLAS Ti

Ethical issues

- Oral consent procedure appropriate for low literate audiences
- Confidentiality of all participants enrolled into this study will be protected to the fullest extent possible

Logistics

- **Study team:**
 - 1 principal investigator
 - 1 study coordinator
 - 1 supervisor
 - 12 research assistants
- **Duration of study:** 1 year
- **Budget:** USD 24,328

Thank you

