

# Migration, Loneliness, Social Networking Pattern and Leads to Risk-Taking Behaviour among Migrants

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**Abstract:** *The main objective of this study is to understand the migrants' social networking and to investigate how migrant's social networking leads to risky behaviour. Social interaction was computed based on migrants who regularly interact with friends and neighbours are considered to have social interactions. This study is based on the 300 interviews of quantitative data and 30 In-Depth Interviews of male migrants who were migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Bhiwandi city of Mumbai. Data has been collected at destination place through structured questionnaire from 300 migrants, 100 from each of three categories 'Migrants never married, married but not staying with their wives and migrants married and staying with their wives'. In-depth interviews were conducted with selected migrants based on their risk behaviour associated; a separate guideline was canvassed to collect the in-depth information on migrants. Total thirty migrants each of three categories from 10 interviews were covered. Descriptive statistics and bi-variate analysis have been used and for In-depth interviews, data has been analysed by using Atlas-ti software. All the interviews were assigned to Atlas-ti and pre-defined codes are assigned to the proper text from each interview. Overall the study explores certain socio-behavioural traits of migrants that are much influenced by their social networking behaviour. Migrants' social interaction, feeling loneliness, consumption of tobacco, alcohol, visiting red-light areas are reported irrespective of their marital status and it also observed that these behavioural traits are not much related to their marital status. Social interaction also seems to be low among migrants who have the high score in job stress scale. This shows that higher social interaction clearly depends on the satisfaction related to job and life. Feeling loneliness is low among the migrants who have the high score in negative emotion scale, and the low score in job stress scale. Among the migrants who visited red light areas for sexual intercourse, 67.5 percent reported that they have visited with friends while 32.5 percent said that they visited alone its shows that the role of social networking.*

**Keywords:** migration, social networking, loneliness, risk behavior

## 1. Introduction

As people live far away from their near and dear ones, they develop their own social and cultural networks that act as strong emotional supports and influence peer group behaviour and activities. To fulfil their physical and emotional needs, individuals create their own social networks and relationships. Social networking starts from living arrangement of the migrants, friendship patterns, interaction with neighbours, and sharing feelings about working and social environment. A previous study showed that for less educated migrants, social network, including friends and relatives, is the major source of health information. On the other hand, peer pressure is the most important factor influencing drug abuse (Gupta and Singh 2000). Zanella (2004)'s theoretical model argues that peer effect depends on social interaction strength with peers. In the present study, social interaction is considered as the interaction with the friends and neighbours. The social interaction was computed based on two questions; (1) "how frequently you used to visit your friends, with response categories; *regularly, occasionally and never* and (2) "How frequently did you visit your neighbors, with response categories; *once in at least 15 days, once in a month and occasionally*. The migrants who regularly interact with friends and migrants who interact with neighbours at least once in 15 days are considered to have social interactions.

## 1.1 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to understand the migrants' social networking and to investigate how migrant's social networking leads to risky behaviour.

## 1.2 Data Methodology

This study is based on the 300 interviews of quantitative data and 30 In-Depth Interviews of male migrants who were migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Bhiwandi city of Mumbai. Data has been collected through structured questionnaire from 300 migrants, 100 from each of three categories 'Migrants never married, married but not staying with their wives and migrants married and staying with their wives' at destination place. In-depth interviews were conducted with selected migrants based on their risk behaviour associated; a separate guideline was canvassed to collect the in-depth information on migrants. Total thirty migrants each of three categories from 10 interviews were covered. Descriptive statistics and bi-variate analysis have been used and In-depth interviews data has been analysed by using Atlas-ti software. All the interviews were assigned to Atlas-ti and pre-defined codes are assigned to the proper text from each interview.

## 2. Results and Discussion

### 2.1 Migrants' Social Interaction Vs Background Characteristics

Table 1 Colum 2: presents the percent distribution of migrants by social interaction according to some selected background

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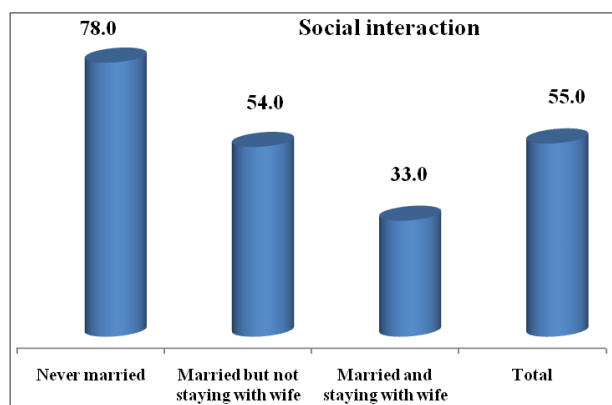
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characteristics. It seems younger migrants are much engaged in social interactions than older migrants. Among the Migrants belonging to age group 25 years and below, 65 percent reported having social interactions followed by migrants aged 26-35 years (56%) and migrants aged 36 years and above (46%). Social interaction increased as the years of schooling increased. Among the migrants who had 10 and above years schooling, 69 percent reported having social interaction, higher than the migrants of 6-9 years schooling (62%) and migrants having 1-5 years schooling (55 %) and migrants who had no schooling (27%). Looking at the cast, migrants belonging to non-SC/ST communities (53%) are tending to have lesser interaction than the migrants belonging to SC/ST communities (67%).

**Wealth Index of Current Place;** a majority of respondents (63%) from among the moderate wealth quintile show social interaction followed by high wealth quintile (52%) and low wealth quintile (35%). And Wealth Index of Native Place; is Half of the respondents those who belong to low wealth quintile at native, reported the social interaction. Three-fifths of moderate native wealth quintile and 55 percent of high native wealth quintile reported the social interaction.

Irrelevant to the electronic media exposure, both exposed (55%) and none- exposed (55%) migrant respondents who are exposed to film media are reported to have the social interaction and 54 percent of migrant respondents reported social interaction equally. Three-fifth (60%) of not exposed migrant reported social interaction. The majority (63%) of respondents who are exposed to print media and 46 percent of respondents not exposed to print media reported the social interaction. Almost equal percentage of male migrants whose migration duration are less than 4 years, 4 to less than 7 years and 7 years and above, reported having social interactions with marginal differences (54%, 58 % and 53% respectively).

Negative Emotions is the considerably higher proportion (64%) of respondents having high negative emotions reported of having social interaction than respondents having low negative emotions (53%). And it can be inferred that 'more the social interaction and less the job stress level and vice-versa'. Three-fifth (60%) of the respondents with less job stress levels and 53 percent of respondents with high job stress levels, reported of having social interaction. The vast majority (71%) of respondents with less satisfaction levels of life reported of having social interaction and only 41 percent of respondents having high satisfaction levels of life reported of having social interaction.



**Figure 1:** Migrants by Social Interaction and their marital status (in %)

## 2.2 Association between the Social Interactions and Selected Covariates

Table 2 Colum 2: the regression analysis clearly depicts that, social interaction is high among the migrants who send more than 50 percent of their income as remittances (AOR: 5.12, 95% CI: 1.45-17.97), those who belong to moderate wealth index before migration (AOR; 0.24, 95% CI: 0.08-0.70), and married migrants. Social interaction seems to be low among migrants who have the high score in job stress scale (AOR: 0.21, 95% CI: 0.07-0.63) and among migrants who have the high score in life satisfaction scale (AOR: 0.13, 95% CI: 0.04-0.35). This shows that higher social interaction clearly depends on the satisfaction related to job and life.

### Loneliness vs. Some Basic Characteristics of Migrants

Several studies have already revealed that migrants often feel loneliness after their work. In this context, the study attempted to find out the loneliness feeling among migrants by posing a question "How frequently you used to feel lonely or bored after your day's work is over" with responses; *generally, occasionally and never*. Migrants who reported to feel loneliness either generally or occasionally were considered as to have felt loneliness.

Table 1 Colum 3: shows percent distribution of migrants who felt loneliness after work by selected background characteristics. Feeling loneliness is high among all migrants though it is comparatively higher in the age group 26-35 years (67%) when compared to migrants belonging to 36 years and above and migrants below 25 years (61% each) age groups. Irrespective of the level of education, all respondents have reported of having felt loneliness after their work equally with the marginal difference. Sixty percent of those whose education was 10+ years, 68 percent of 6-9 years of education, 64percent of 1-5 years of education and 67percent of uneducated respondents reported having felt loneliness. Looking at the caste parameter of the migrants, it is observed that 53 percent migrants belonging to SC/ST communities and 67 percent Non-SC/ST communities reported having felt loneliness after their work.

**Wealth index of current place** is three-quarters (75 %) of respondents belonging to low wealth quintile and slightly more than three-quarters (76%) of respondents belonging to high wealth quintile reported of having felt the loneliness after work. Three-fifths (60%) of the respondents who belong to moderate wealth quintile reported the loneliness.

**Wealth index of native place** is equal proportion of respondents belonging to low wealth quintile and high wealth quintile (68% each) and 59 percent of respondents belong to moderate wealth quintile have reported loneliness. Irrelevant to the electronic media exposure, both the categories viz., those who got exposure (65%) and none- exposures (66 %) reported the loneliness after their work almost equally. Among the migrants who had no exposure to film media, 65 percent of them felt loneliness while 68 percent who are exposed to film have reported the same. In a case of print media, 69 percent migrants who are not exposed and 62 percent who are exposed felt the loneliness.

Duration of migration can be observed that longer the duration of migration higher the felt loneliness. Fifty-four percent of migrants whose migration duration is less than 4 years, 66 percent of migrants whose migration duration is 4 years to less than 7 years and 71 percent of those whose migration duration is above seven years reported loneliness. The present data shows an inverse relation between negative emotional scale and loneliness of migrants. It is observed that 52 percent of migrants with high negative emotions and 68 percent of low negative emotion scale reported having felt loneliness.

According to job stress scale, 60 percent of the migrants with less job stress and 67 percent migrants of high job stress levels reported loneliness. The almost similar trend can be observed with the migrants having less Life satisfaction (61%) and with migrants (69%) of high life satisfaction scale. From this, it may be inferred that higher the job stress and life satisfaction scales higher the felt loneliness

#### Association between Perceived Loneliness and Selected Covariates:

Table 2 Column 3 Presents that regression analysis clearly depicts that, feeling loneliness is low among the migrants who have the high score in negative emotion scale (AOR: 0.29, 95% CI: 0.11-0.72) and the low score in job stress scale (AOR: 2.72, 95% CI: 1.03-7.17). This shows that feeling loneliness is associated with the negative emotions and job stress.



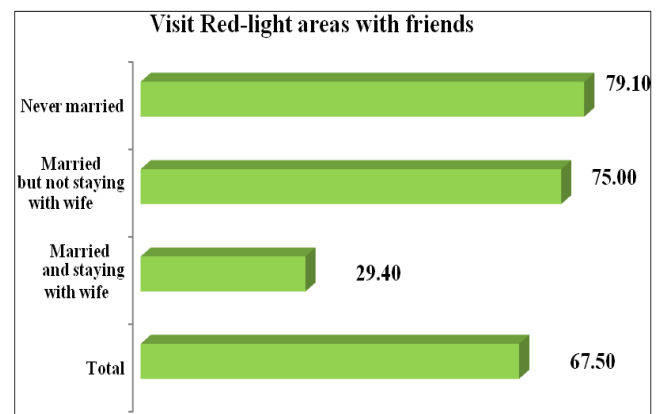
**Figure 2:** Migrants Feeling Loneliness after Work and Their Marital Status (In %)

Figure 2 shows migrants feeling loneliness after work and their marital status. It can be observed that higher proportion (71%) of married migrants not staying with wife felt loneliness after their work more than the other two categories viz., never married migrants (63%) and married migrants staying with wife (62%).

#### Migrants visiting red light areas for sexual intercourse with friends and alone by their marital status (in %) [Note: N= no. of respondents]

Visit Red-light areas with friends or alone	Never married % (N)	Married but not staying with wife % (N)	Married and staying with wife % (N)	Total % (N)
Visited with friends	79.1 (34)	75.0 (15)	29.4 (5)	67.5 (54)
Visited alone	20.9 (9)	25.0 (5)	70.6 (12)	32.5 (26)

Percent distribution of migrants who visited red-light areas alone and with friends by their marital status. A total of 26 percent migrants visited red light areas. Among the migrants who visited red light areas, 67.5 percent reported that they have visited with friends while 32.5 percent said that they visited alone. Among the migrants who visited alone, married migrants and staying with wife (70%) have higher tendency followed by married and not staying with wife (25%) and unmarried migrants (20.9%). Whereas, among the migrants who visited along with friends both unmarried migrants (79.1%) and migrants married but not staying with wife (75%) have reported far higher tendency than migrants married and staying with wives (29.4%). This clearly demonstrates that single male migrants visiting red light areas with friends is common and also shows that the role of social networking.



**Figure 3:** Migrants visiting red light areas for sexual intercourse with friends and their marital status (in %)

### 3. Findings from Qualitative Data

In order to capture the insights of migrant's behavioural patterns; the findings of the qualitative data can be substantially supporting the quantitative findings. The narratives of the qualitative data with exceptional information especially on migrants, social networking pattern and its influence on their risky sexual behaviours have been presented below.

*"I did not have liquor, but XXX use to have it. Within a month I had four more friends, they use to take me to bar for food only, and slowly they started force to me have liquor. And we made a team of five members and started beating people when we were drunk, and they started going to sex workers for two to three times in a week. Whatever money we earned we use to spend whole money on liquor and sex workers".*

36 years, Married but not staying with wife, loom labour, 10 years in migration

*"I met with some of my friends here who were in the habit of cigarette and drinking after some time they use to offer the drink to me also. At that time, then I addicted"*

37 years, Married and staying with wife, power loom labour

*"After coming here, I got habits of drinking all liquors. I had created friends and with them I use to enjoy, going to beer bars. There I book girls for a night and like this, I started enjoying life. We use to book the girl from the red light area*

and took them to the lodge. The way we enjoyed, I do not think so anyone has enjoyed. Mostly we use to have English liquor, country, said madi, bidi, cigarette, nothing has left by us."

35 years, Married but not staying with wife, Beem filling worker in loom

"One day my friend (who become a friend at the place of drinking place) and myself went to have liquor, we straight went to the red light area and had sex without condom with her. Then onwards whenever I feel lack of my wife, I started going to red light area to have sex with CSW. At that time, there was no much awareness about the condom. Like this way every Friday, I use to visit CSW."

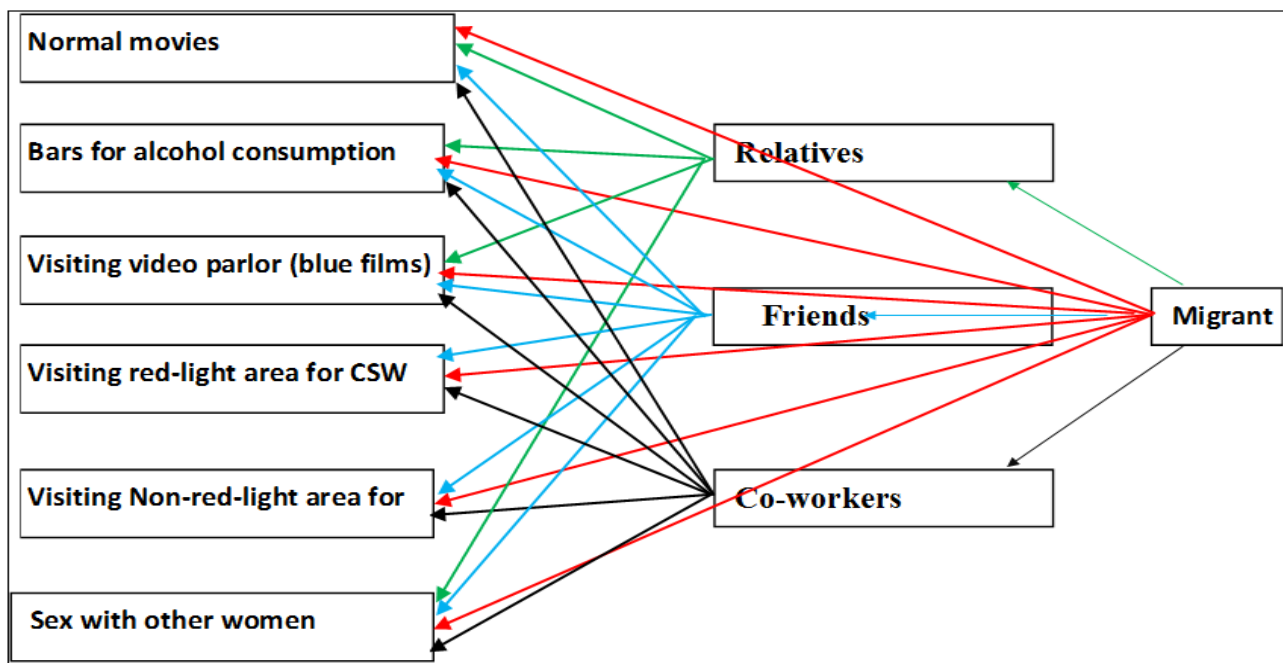
40 years, Married and staying with wife, Beem filling in loom

"I started getting salary of Rs. 7-8 thousand. I had purchased good clothes and watch. I hang around with friends, Sometimes we together go for adult movie once in a week and started having pan, gutkha, and cigarette too."

26 years, married but not staying with wife, power loom worker staying in Bhiwandi since 6 years.

"After my duty gets over I was having free time so my friends took me to the tadi madi shop and forcibly drank me tadi. I didn't like initially but after two three days I started like that. I regularly start drinking tadi and cigarette and that becomes a habit of mine due to which leads to negligence of work. When I first time took Tadi, my age was 22 years."

30 years, Married and staying with wife, power loom labour, staying in Bhiwandi since 10 years.



**Figure 4:** Based on the Qualitative data Migrants Reported activities in Social mapping

"I was much fascinated about almost most items. I was not having any kind of bad habits at that time. My friends used to tell me you are only saving money. Every person has to keep one habit because we are doing hard work. I started eating tobacco on the say of friends. Then Jarda Paan, Cigarette, and sometime Tadi-madi all this becomes a habit of mine."

27 years, Married but not staying with wife, Kandi Machine runner in loom, staying in Bhiwandi since 31 years

Near my workshop, there was Video parlour and whenever I used to get time, I use to go for movies. They screened the Hindi movies. In addition, sometimes adult movies also! During this period I made friendship with two friends, they used to give me gutkha and some time liquor."

23 years, Unmarried, power loom labour, Staying in Bhiwandi since 6 years.

"I met with some of my friends here who were in the habit of cigarette, drinking and they use to offer the drink to me also. At that time, they use to watch Hindi movie and blue film in the hall. And used to see Blue film in the T.V also."

37 years, married and staying with wife, power loom labour, Staying in Bhiwandi since 12 years.

"We were three friends and all of us would go together and have fun. We had English liquor, country liquor Desi daru and would visit beer bars and then go to red light and get home-based sex workers to the lodge. At the age of 25 I got married and after two years I was blessed with a child. Even after my marriage, I was staying alone at Bhiwandi with my friends and my wife was staying at home (in a village). Even after getting married I didn't leave my habit."

28 years, Power loom labour, married but not with the wife, staying in Bhiwandi since 6 years.

Migration is an independent individual risk factor for unsafe behaviour and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Findings showed that unsafe habits are prevalent among migrants of all categories and migrants Social Networking pattern which of the activity of meeting with friends, going together beer bars, taking of substance uses like all forms of smoking, using gutka and wines and sexual relations with CSWs lead to Risk-Taking Behaviour among migrants.



## 4. Conclusions

Social networking of migrants often depends on the number of friends they have, their interaction levels with the neighbours and colleagues at workplace. Several studies pointed out earlier, the social networking behaviour of migrants also influence their risky behaviour associated with their sexual behaviours in addition to their consumption pattern. Overall the study explores certain socio-behavioral traits of migrants that are much influenced by their social networking behaviour. Migrants' social interaction, feeling loneliness, consumption of tobacco and alcohol are reported irrespective of their marital status and it also observed that these behavioural traits are not much related to their marital status. More than two-thirds of migrants (65%) reported to have felt loneliness, followed by social interaction (55%).

However, there emerged some interesting patterns, in the regression analysis, that, social interaction is high among the migrants who send more than 50 percent of their income as remittances, and migrants with moderate wealth index before migration. Social interaction also seems to be low among migrants who have the high score in job stress scale. This shows that higher social interaction clearly depends on the satisfaction related to job and life. Feeling loneliness is low among the migrants who have the high score in negative emotion scale, and the low score in job stress scale.

Findings showed that unsafe habits are prevalent among migrants of all categories. Hence, the HIV prevention programs need to target both male and female labour migrants in the work site in the country of destination. Therefore, awareness-raising activities on HIV/AIDS,

Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) program for helping them change their risky behaviours and other preventive actions to be taken in the places of origin, addressing both male and female perspective and returnee migrants.

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**Table 1: Migrants having Social Interaction (n= no. of respondents)**

1	2	3
Background characteristics	Social interaction % (n)	Felt loneliness after work % (n)
Age		
<=25 years	65.2 (45)	60.9 (42)
26-35 years	56.1 (78)	66.9 (93)
36+ years	45.7 (42)	66.3 (61)
<b>Education in Years</b>		
No Education	26.5 (13)	67.3 (33)
1-5 years schooling	54.7 (47)	64.0 (55)
6-9 years schooling	61.7 (74)	67.5 (81)
10+ years schooling	68.9 (31)	60.0 (27)
<b>Caste</b>		
SC/ST	66.7 (24)	52.8 (19)
Non-SC/ST	53.4 (141)	67.0 (177)
<b>Wealth Index at current place</b>		
Low	35.4 (23)	75.4 (49)
Moderate	62.5 (105)	59.5 (100)
High	51.6 (32)	75.8 (47)
<b>Remittances to native place</b>		
Up to 25% of their income	52.9 (27)	58.8 (30)
26%-50% of their income	63.2 (79)	67.2 (84)
51+% of their income	69.4 (25)	61.1 (22)
<b>Electronic media</b>		
No	54.9 (73)	66.2 (88)
Yes	55.1 (92)	64.7 (108)
<b>Film media</b>		
No	53.9 (131)	64.6 (157)
Yes	59.6 (34)	68.4 (39)
<b>Print media</b>		
No	46.2 (66)	68.5 (98)

Yes	63.1 (99)	62.4 (98)
<b>Native wealth Index</b>		
Low	50.0 (53)	67.9 (72)
Moderate	60.4 (55)	59.3 (54)
High	55.3 (57)	68.0 (70)
<b>Total Migration Duration in Years</b>		
< 4.00	53.8 (35)	53.8 (35)
4.00 - 6.99	57.5 (65)	66.4 (75)
7.00+	53.3 (65)	70.5 (86)
<b>Negative emotion Scale</b>		
< 2.50	53.2 (132)	68.1 (169)
2.50+	63.5 (33)	51.9 (27)
<b>Job stress Scale</b>		
< 2.50	60.3 (44)	60.3 (44)
2.50+	53.3 (121)	67.0 (152)
<b>Life satisfaction Scale</b>		
< 2.50	70.6 (101)	60.8 (87)
2.50+	40.8 (64)	69.4 (109)
Total	55.0 (165)	65.3 (196)

**Table 2: Association between the Social Interactions and Selected Covariates**

1	2		3	
Background characteristics	Social Interaction		Loneliness after work	
Age	Exp (b)	95% CI (MIN-MAX)	Exp (b)	95% CI (MIN-MAX)
<=25 years				
26-35 years	0.73	0.25 – 2.08	1.64	0.66 - 4.09
36+ years	1.26	0.37 – 4.32	1.53	0.50 - 4.66
<b>Education in Years</b>				
No Education				
1-5 years schooling	4.68	1.30 – 16.80	0.81	0.25 - 2.59
6-9 years schooling	3.58	0.92 – 13.93	1.97	0.55 - 7.08
10+ years schooling	2.42	0.43 – 13.44	0.50	0.10 - 2.31
<b>Caste</b>				
SC/ST				
Non SC/ST	0.27	0.06 – 1.24	2.84	0.95 - 8.49
<b>Wealth Index (after migration)</b>				
Low				
Moderate	2.04	0.77 – 5.38	0.44	0.17 - 1.12
High	1.24	0.31 – 4.92	0.94	0.26 - 3.37
<b>Remittance</b>				
Remittance Up to 25% of their income				
26%-50% of their income	2.15	0.91 – 5.10	1.70	0.78 - 3.71
51+% of their income	5.12	<b>1.45 – 17.97</b>	1.06	0.36 - 3.16
<b>Electronic media</b>				
No				
Yes	0.82	0.35 – 1.93	1.07	0.49 - 2.36
<b>Film media</b>				
No				
Yes	1.18	0.40 – 3.53	0.68	0.26 - 1.82
<b>Print media</b>				
No				
Yes	1.48	0.57 – 3.82	0.89	0.39 - 2.05
<b>Wealth Index (before migration)</b>				
Low				
Moderate	0.24	<b>0.08 - 0.70</b>	1.34	0.53 - 3.35
High	0.51	0.19 - 1.37	2.02	0.85 - 4.77
<b>Marital status</b>				
Not married				

Married but wife not stay with me	0.33	<b>0.11 - 0.96</b>	0.88	0.33 - 2.35
Wife stay with me	0.14	<b>0.04 - 0.48</b>	0.53	0.19 - 1.52
<b>Negative emotion Scale</b>				
< 2.50				
2.50+	2.75	<b>0.93 - 8.14</b>	0.29	<b>0.11 - 0.72</b>
<b>Job stress Scale</b>				
< 2.50				
2.50+	0.21	<b>0.07 - 0.63</b>	2.72	<b>1.03 - 7.17</b>
<b>Life satisfaction Scale</b>				
< 2.50				
2.50+	0.13	<b>0.04 - 0.35</b>	1.69	0.70 - 4.07