

Social Networking, Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and Risk-Taking Behavior Among Migrant Workers

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Abstrak

With increasing agricultural development, industrialization, and urbanization India has experienced huge migration flows. These have significant implications for the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS spread. The present paper attempts to study the extent of knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS and the prevalence and correlates of risk-taking behaviors among migrant workers in Surat city of India utilizing data from a research project undertaken in 2000-2001 at International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. Major findings of the study suggest that a majority of the migrants in Surat city are aware of AIDS and have knowledge of at least one correct mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS. The awareness and knowledge of STDs and correct mode of their transmission is less widespread. A large proportion of migrant workers in the city, particularly long distance young migrants (age-group 20-30) stay alone or with friends. Their living arrangements have significantly affected the prevalence of risk-behavior such as visits to CSWs and extra marital relationship. An attempt is also made to determine the prevalence of multiple risk-traits among these migrants in order to identify the relative influences of contextual, social network and personal factors in the dynamics of drug use and risky sexual behavior: