

Husbands' Out-migration: Increased Burden on or More Autonomy for Wives Left Behind? ?

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Rationale for Study

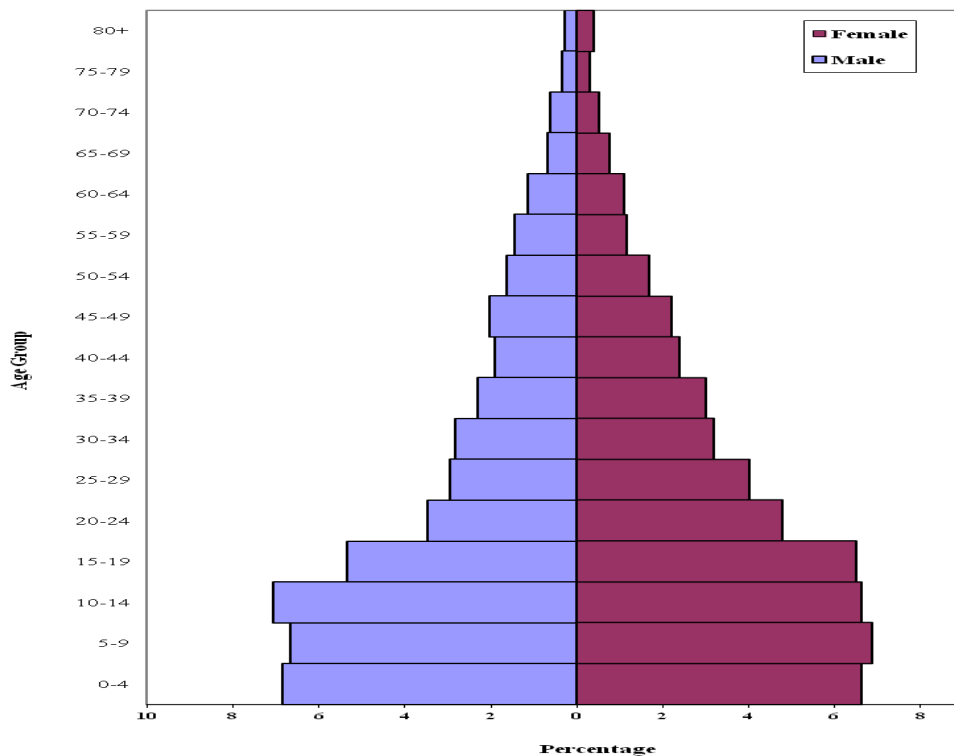
- **World has witness unpredicted levels of population mobility in the history of mankind.**
- **Migration has drawn attention in both the academia and policy arena.**
- **Has prompted large number of studies.**
- **These studies have greatly advanced our understanding of consequences of household members' migration on left behind family and sending communities.**

Rationale of the Study

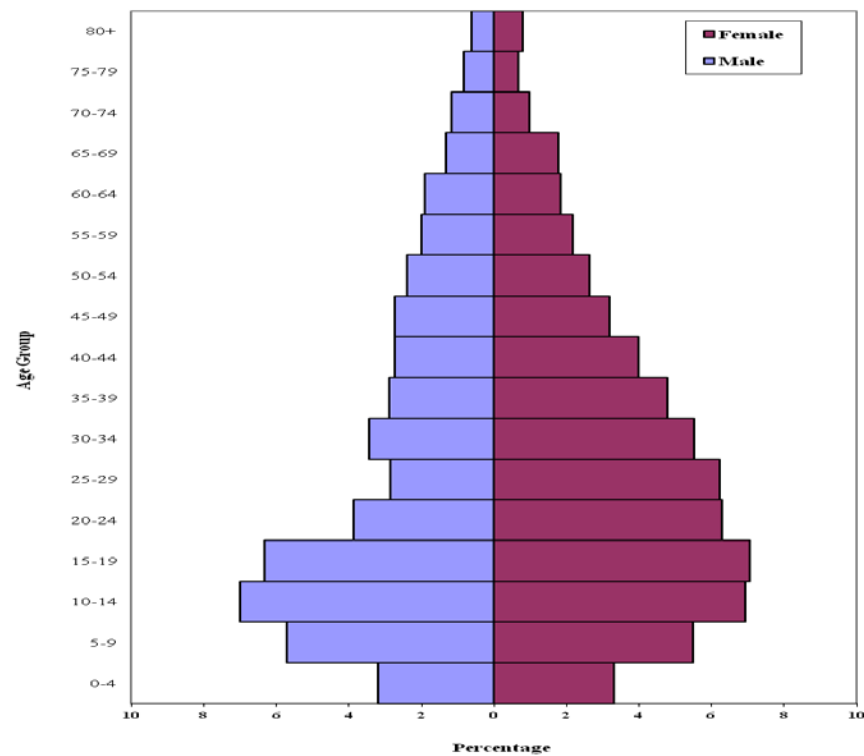
- **However, with few exceptions, little attention has been given to the most obvious family member – the spouse, *the wives*— in predominantly male migration-sending contexts.**
- **The impacts of husbands' migration on wives left behind may be distinct from the impacts on other family members.**

Our Context

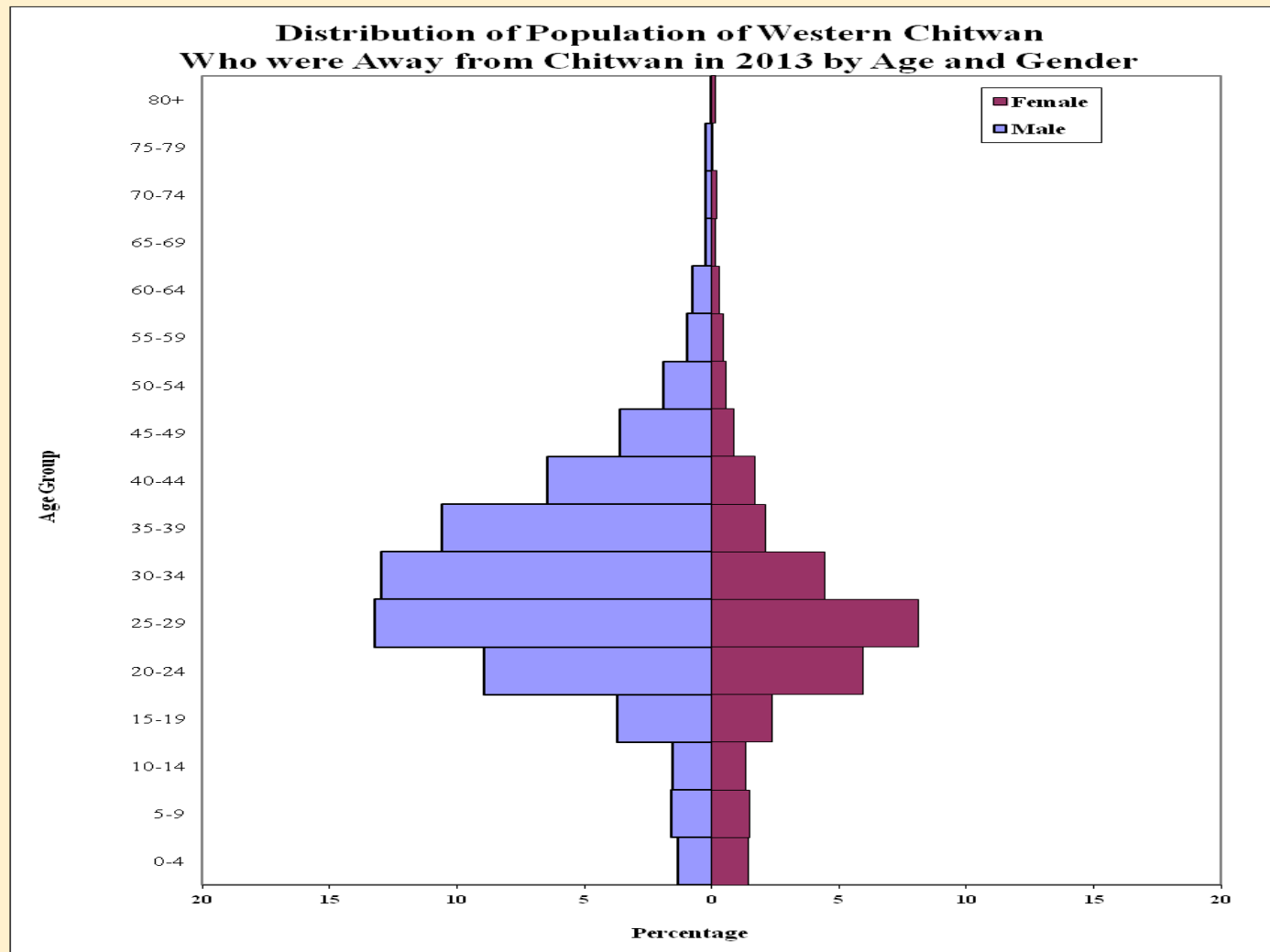
Population Pyramid of Western Chitwan 1998



Population Pyramid of Western Chitwan 2013



Our Context



Our context:

- **Close 50% households has at least one migrant**
- **Over 95 % male**
- **Two third are married men**

Literature:

- **Literature points towards two opposing effects:**
 - **Yabiku et al found that husband's migration enhances wives' autonomy and empowerment (Yabiku, Agadjanian, and Sevoyan. 2010).**
 - **While Maharjan et al found wives whose husbands had migrated experienced increased work burdens and relationship problems with their husbands and in-laws (Maharjan, Bauer and Knerr, 2012b).**



Theoretical Framework:

We argue both of these effects may operate simultaneously

- Loss of household labor due to husbands' migration increases burden on wives**
- Remittance husbands' sent to household may mediate the burden and may in fact increase autonomy**

In deed these associations could be conditioned by:

- **The diversity of family structures, motivations for migration, and human and social capital embedded in migrant-sending households along with the gender, religious, and ethnic stratification of their origin societies may all play important roles in how a wife manages her husband's household role and responsibilities, and how she copes with the social and psychological stress of her husband's migration.**



Specific Aims

- **Does husband's labour out-migration increases women's burden measured as:**
 - **number daily activities**
 - **women's participation in farming**

- **Does husband's labour out-migration increases women's autonomy measured as:**
 - **media use**
 - **Economic activities**

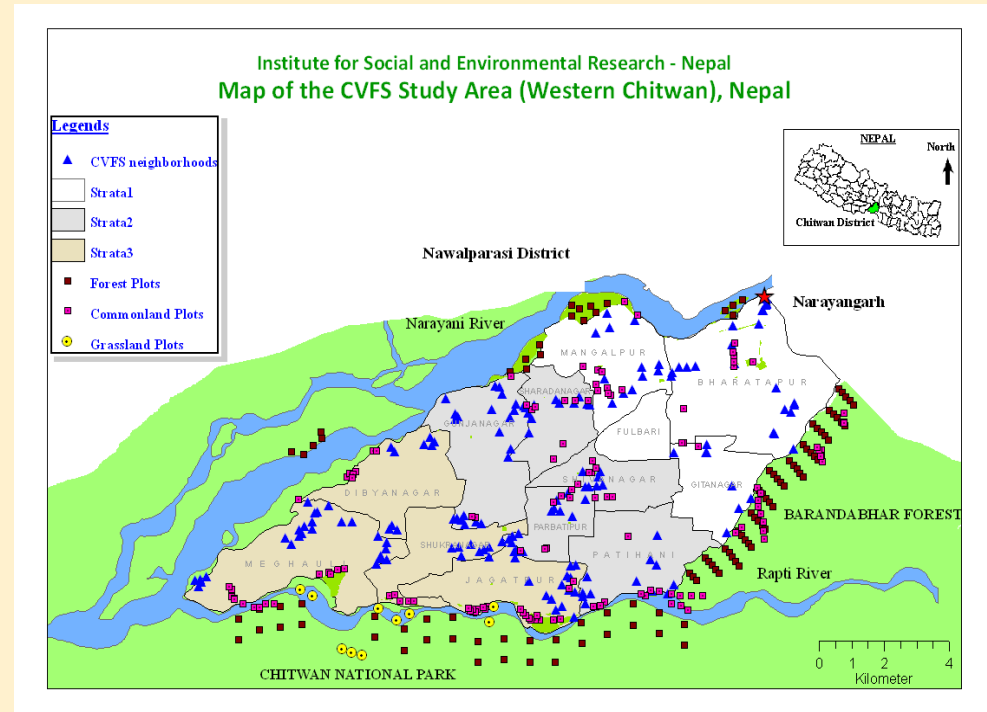
Data and sample:

➤ Data: Chitwan Valley Family Study

➤ 149 communities, initially defined as a cluster of 5-15 households

➤ 1931 households

➤ Women: 2421



Data Collection

Used a Women Time Use Calendar Method

Last 24 hours

Last month



Section DI 1: Women-Time Use in a Day

Respondent's ID

Respondent's Marital Status 1. Married 2. Divorce 3. Widow

↓

Close the Interview

DL1 Now I am going to ask you some questions about your time spent in various activities in a day. Please tell me what have you done from yesterday..... to till now and for how long?

For Interviewer: We have developed a table to record the various activities respondent performed in the last 24 hour. To make it easy, time (hour) has kept in the top row of the table and activities in column in left side and created a box for each hour. Although time in the table starts from 4 o'clock early in the morning, the question should be asked based on interview time and should ask how she spent her time in last 24 hours. Suppose interview starts from 9 o'clock, question should start as "what were you doing yesterday at this time or at 9 o'clock?" Once respondent tells the name of activity, X should be recorded in the box corresponding to that activity and time. Then again ask "how long did you spend your time on this activity" and again mark X in the box corresponding to that time and join both X by a line. In this way, we need to ask how she spent her time after that until reached to 24 hours. Respondent could perform more than one activities in same time. Please ask how much time she spent in each activity and record as mentioned above. If activity that the respondent mentioned is already listed in table, mark in the corresponding box and if not, write down the activity the respondent said on the blank line in Others category and ask the time. Note: If activity is completed within a hour, please mark X in the box and circle it.

| S.N | Time and Hours Daily Activity | Yes=1 | Early Morning | | Morning | | | | | | Day | | | | Evening | | Night | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|---------------|---|---------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|---|---|---|---------|---|-------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| | | No=0 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Personal care (Bathing & Cleaning) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Cleaned house | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Participated in daily worship or religious activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Prepared food/breakfast/tiffin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Ate or taken food/breakfast/tiffin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Washed dishes and cleaned kitchen | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Washed clothes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Went to college/school and studied at home | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Daily wage activity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Involved in own business | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Involved in agricultural activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Raised livestock/ grass cutting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Went to office | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Took care of children/elderly people | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Helped children for their study | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Watched television/read paper or book | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Spent time to use internet or facebook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Talked in the phone | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Spent time with friends/colleagues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Taken rest | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Slept | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Other (specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Other (specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Other (specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Other (specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Go to Monthly Time Use Calendar

Section DI 2: Women-Time Use in a Month

DI.2 Now I am going to ask you some questions about your time spent in different activities in the past month. Please tell me what have you done from last (date) till today and for how many days?

For Interviewer: We have developed a table to record various activities respondent performed in the last month (30 days). To make it easy, days have been kept in the top row in the table and activities in column in left side and created a box for each day. Although the table starts from the first day of the month, the question should be asked based on interview date and should ask about activities she was involved in previous 30 days. Suppose interview date is 10th day of the month, you should ask about the activities she had performed since 10th day of the last month to till today. Once respondent mentions the activities, we need to ask when or which date she had done that activity and should mark X in the corresponding box. Then also ask how many days she was involved in that activity and mark X in the corresponding box and join both X by line. In this way, we need to ask all activities mentioned in the table. Beside, we also need to ask if she had done any other activity in any day of the last month. Respondent could perform more than one activity in same day. Please ask each activity she had done for how many days and record as mentioned above. If the activity mentioned by respondent is already in table, mark on that activity and if not, write down the activities respondent said on blank line (Others section) and ask the duration. Note: If activity is completed within a day, please mark X in box and circle it. Again, either you can ask respondent initiating from today back to one month or initiating from the first day of the month until today. You can ask either way whatever respondent feel easy.

| S.N | Month and Dates → | Month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | Day | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Week Day | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Activities | | Yes=1, No=0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Worked on farm | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Worked for livestock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Went to office (office day) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Involved in own business | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Sewing and weaving | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Went to college/school/tuition | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Daily wage activities (day) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Visited to relatives and other people | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Went to market | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Went to shop for shopping | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Paid bills (electricity, phone, water) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Went to bank/remittance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Felt sick or visited doctor for own health check up or to buy medicines | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Went health centre for other family member's treatment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Visited to religious place | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Attended cultural ceremonies (wedding/funeral/bratbandha) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Went for entertainment (picnic, visit somewhere else) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Attended women group or other kinds of meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Went to children's school to pay fee or other purpose | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Other (Specify)..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Thank you very much for your valuable time and cooperation. We will visit you again.

Thank You !

Data collection:

| Data Collection Activities | Season 1 | | Season 2 | | Season 3 | | Season 4 | | Season 5 | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 1. Household Registry | 2792 | 99.5 | 2869 | 99.5 | 2891 | 99.3 | 2903 | 99.1 | 3000 | 99.5 |
| 2. Women Time Use | 2422 | 98.6 | 2295 | 95.2 | 2236 | 94.7 | 2231 | 95.3 | 2221 | 95.6 |
| 3. Seasonal Agri. & Remittance | 2208 | 99.7 | 2197 | 99.2 | 2187 | 99.1 | 2183 | 98.9 | 2171 | 98.5 |

Data Collection

Used first wave data from 2103 women ages 18-59 years

Response Rate= 98.49

Average interview time : 15.70 minutes



Analytical Approach

Outcome: Wives' daily activities:

- number daily activities
- women's participation in farming
- Economic activities

Explanatory factors: Husband's out-migration
remittance

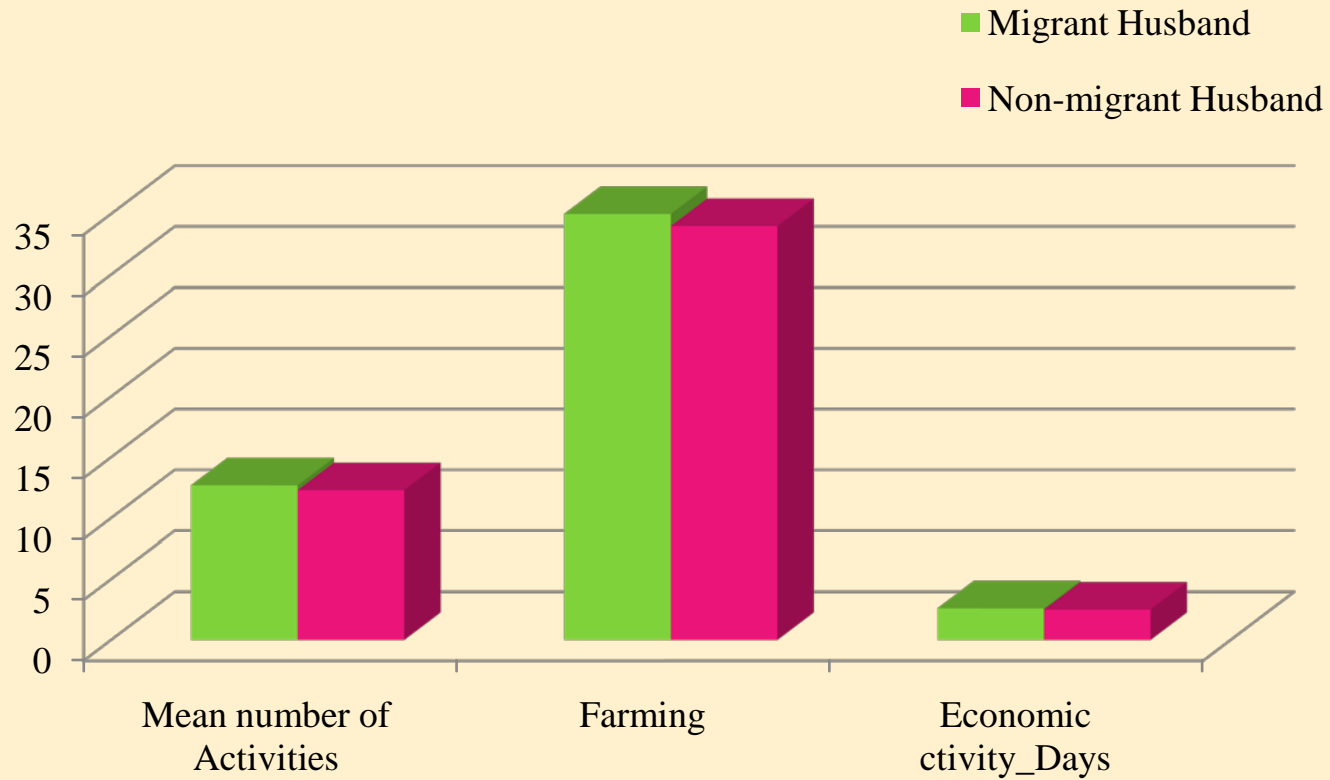
Unit of analysis: Individual Women

Analytical technique: Multi-level, multiple regression models (linear and binary).

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of select measures used in the analyses

| Variable | Label | N | Mean | Minimum | Maximum |
|--|---------------|------|-------|---------|---------|
| Daily activities performed last 24 hours | Numbers | 2103 | 12.50 | 3.00 | 19.00 |
| Participated in Farming activities last 24 hours 1 | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.70 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Participated in economic activities in last month | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 2.56 | 0.00 | 15.50 |
| Education | Highest grade | 2103 | 5.95 | 0.00 | 16.00 |
| Wife with no formal education | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.27 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Wife with 1-5 grade education | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Wife with 6-10 grade of education | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Wife with 11 or more grade of education | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Brahmin\Chhetri | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Hill Janjati | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Dalit | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Newar | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.06 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Terai Janajati | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Engagement in agriculture | Scale | 2103 | 0.15 | -2.19 | 23.92 |
| Household Assets | Scale | 2103 | 0.01 | -7.36 | 13.07 |
| Internet cable | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.98 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Distance to Narayanghat | Miles | 2103 | 8.62 | 0.02 | 17.70 |
| Market with in 15 minutes | Minutes | 2103 | 0.96 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Wife's age | Years | 2103 | 35.40 | 18.00 | 59.00 |
| Household Size | Numbers | 2103 | 7.17 | 2.00 | 28.00 |
| Children | Numbers | 2103 | 2.05 | 0.00 | 8.00 |
| Husband non-migrant | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.63 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Husband migrant no remittance | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Husband migrants with remittance | 1=Yes, 0=N0 | 2103 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Months husband abroad last year | Numbers | 2103 | 3.51 | 0.00 | 12.00 |

Distribution Wife's Activity by Husband's Migration Status



Multilevel Regression Estimate of Effects of Husband's Migration on Wife's number of daily activities

| Measures | Estimates | Standard deviation | T Value | P value |
|---|-----------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Brahmin\Chhetri | 0.63 | 0.15 | 4.28 | 0.0 |
| Hill Janjati | 0.01 | 0.17 | 0.09 | 0.93 |
| Dalit | 0.89 | 0.24 | 3.78 | 0.00 |
| Newar | 0.47 | 0.16 | 3.04 | 0.00 |
| Wife with 1-5 grade education | 0.50 | 0.16 | 3.11 | 0.00 |
| Wife with 6-10 grade of education | 0.93 | 0.16 | 5.84 | 0.00 |
| Wife with 11 or more grade of education | 1.05 | 0.19 | 5.45 | 0.00 |
| Engagement in agriculture | 0.03 | 0.03 | 1.00 | 0.32 |
| Household Assets | 0.08 | 0.03 | 2.68 | 0.01 |
| Internet cable | -0.37 | 0.35 | -1.07 | 0.28 |
| Distance to Narayanghat | 0.02 | 0.01 | 1.30 | 0.19 |
| Market with in 15 minutes | 0.53 | 0.26 | 2.01 | 0.04 |
| Wife's age | -0.02 | 0.01 | -2.23 | 0.03 |
| Household Size | -0.04 | 0.02 | -2.48 | 0.01 |
| Children | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.45 | 0.65 |
| Months husband abroad last year | 0.02 | 0.01 | 2.13 | 0.03 |

Multilevel Logistic Regression Estimate of Effects of Husband's Migration on Wife's participation in farming activities

| Measures | Odds Ratio | Standard deviation | t Value | P value |
|---|------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Brahmin\Chhetri | 0.67 | 0.17 | -2.40 | 0.02 |
| Hill Janjati | 1.14 | 0.18 | 0.72 | 0.47 |
| Dalit | 1.37 | 0.24 | 1.28 | 0.20 |
| Newar | 1.18 | 0.17 | 0.97 | 0.33 |
| Wife with 1-5 grade education | 0.94 | 0.18 | -0.36 | 0.72 |
| Wife with 6-10 grade of education | 1.04 | 0.17 | 0.24 | 0.81 |
| Wife with 11 or more grade of education | 1.80 | 0.20 | 2.91 | 0.00 |
| Engagement in agriculture | 0.76 | 0.04 | -6.93 | 0.00 |
| Household Assets | 0.89 | 0.03 | -3.65 | 0.00 |
| Internet cable | 1.24 | 0.43 | 0.51 | 0.61 |
| Distance to Narayanghat | 0.90 | 0.02 | -6.83 | 0.00 |
| Market with in 15 minutes | 1.20 | 0.33 | 0.56 | 0.58 |
| Wife's age | 0.97 | 0.01 | -3.30 | 0.00 |
| Household Size | 1.03 | 0.02 | 1.46 | 0.14 |
| Children | 0.86 | 0.06 | -2.47 | 0.01 |
| Months husband abroad last year | 0.97 | 0.01 | -2.67 | 0.01 |

Multilevel Logistic Regression Estimate of Effects of Husband's Migration status on Wife's participation in farming activities

| Measures | Odds Ratio | Standard deviation | t Value | P value |
|---|------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Brahmin\Chhetri | 0.669 | 0.17 | -2.42 | 0.02 |
| Hill Janjati | 1.139 | 0.18 | 0.71 | 0.48 |
| Dalit | 1.374 | 0.24 | 1.31 | 0.19 |
| Newar | 1.170 | 0.17 | 0.93 | 0.35 |
| Wife with 1-5 grade education | 0.936 | 0.18 | -0.38 | 0.71 |
| Wife with 6-10 grade of education | 1.032 | 0.17 | 0.18 | 0.86 |
| Wife with 11 or more grade of education | 1.781 | 0.20 | 2.86 | 0.00 |
| Engagement in agriculture | 0.755 | 0.04 | -6.94 | 0.00 |
| Household Assets | 0.891 | 0.03 | -3.74 | 0.00 |
| Internet cable | 1.242 | 0.42 | 0.51 | 0.61 |
| Distance to Narayanghat | 0.902 | 0.02 | -6.83 | 0.00 |
| Market with in 15 minutes | 1.206 | 0.33 | 0.56 | 0.57 |
| Wife's age | 0.974 | 0.01 | -3.29 | 0.00 |
| Household Size | 1.027 | 0.02 | 1.49 | 0.14 |
| Children | 0.864 | 0.06 | -2.48 | 0.01 |
| Husband's abroad with no remittance | 0.785 | 0.18 | -1.31 | 0.19 |
| Husband's abroad with remittance | 0.802 | 0.12 | -1.83 | 0.07 |

Multilevel Regression Estimate of Effects of Husband's Migration on Wife's participation in economic activities

| Measures | Estimates | Standard deviation | T Value | P value |
|---|-----------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Brahmin\Chhetri | -0.38 | 0.18 | -2.17 | 0.03 |
| Hill Janjati | 0.01 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 0.97 |
| Dalit | -0.04 | 0.28 | -0.16 | 0.87 |
| Newar | 0.10 | 0.19 | 0.56 | 0.57 |
| Wife with 1-5 grade education | 0.27 | 0.19 | 1.44 | 0.15 |
| Wife with 6-10 grade of education | 0.45 | 0.19 | 2.38 | 0.02 |
| Wife with 11 or more grade of education | 0.58 | 0.23 | 2.53 | 0.01 |
| Engagement in agriculture | -0.05 | 0.03 | -1.52 | 0.13 |
| Household Assets | -0.04 | 0.03 | -1.31 | 0.19 |
| Internet cable | 0.40 | 0.41 | 0.98 | 0.33 |
| Distance to Narayanghat | -0.07 | 0.02 | -4.43 | 0.00 |
| Market with in 15 minutes | 0.68 | 0.31 | 2.18 | 0.03 |
| Wife's age | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.30 | 0.76 |
| Household Size | -0.03 | 0.02 | -1.67 | 0.10 |
| Children | 0.13 | 0.06 | 2.14 | 0.03 |
| Months husband abroad last year | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.60 | 0.55 |

Conclusions

- Consequences of Husbands' migration for wives works in complex ways
- Husband's out-migration increases wife's number of activities but decreases participation in farming.
- Husband's migration status sending remittance has stronger consequences for wives participation in farming.