

# Review of: "Internal migration and mental disorders among the adult population: a community-based cross-sectional study in Nepal"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Major issues

Residual confounding & Temporality: To really investigate whether migration has an impact on mental health, one would need to run a longitudinal study where past mental health diagnosis is taken into account.

Consistency of the dependent variable: "How long have you been living continuously in the current place of residence?" was asked. Those participants who answered "always" are treated as "non-migrants," while those participants who reported "number of years lived in the current place of residence" are considered as "migrants." The question is too vague to give a consistent definition of internal migration across all participants. This deserves at least a limitation.

Information bias: "A question about mental health, "Ever been told by a doctor/healthcare worker you have depression and anxiety," was asked in the survey." è We have no information as to whether the mental health clinicians have taken the cultural background of the participants into account. Again, this deserves at least a limitation.

The analysis is not targeted to the specific relationship that the author wishes to unfold (migration à mental disorders). Each factor is treated the same way, which would have been fine if the author had sought to determine the influence of each of the factor onto mental health diagnoses. I would suggest changing the framework of the study to one that aims to determine the influence of each variable (including internal migration) onto mental disorder diagnoses.

Statistical bias: the use of standard regression techniques is suboptimal and does not take into account non-linearities and interactions.