

Review of: "Impact of Men's Labour Migration on Non-migrating Partner's Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review"

Sharada Srinivasan¹

¹ University of Guelph

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting review focused on a timely topic as the authors state "By focusing on the women left-behind, their voices and experiences, which form a critical part of the migration experience, can be understood. We conducted this systematic review to analyse what is known about the impact of men's migration on the health of women who remain behind and explore literature gaps. This work is both timely and original as by exploring the health impacts of migration and the resultant separation on women who remain behind will allow us to understand how migration is played out in a more holistic way and will contribute new insights in the gendered experience of migration and health".

The findings in the paper are at one level revealing but at another level rather unsurprising. Given that this is a "systematic" review, I'd suggest the following to strengthen the paper:

1. Include a theoretical or analytical framework which guides your questions and analysis.
2. In terms of insights or findings, it'd be good to discuss limitations in terms of data and methodology in existing literature as well as offer recommendations on how to strengthen data and analysis.
3. A major limitation that should be acknowledged is that the paper reviews only English language western scholarly databases, no Spanish, French or other languages. Also, while the issue is related to public health, the search could have been widened to social science databases as there is a lot of public health, migration and gender related development and other literature.
4. Early in the paper under reasons for migrating, please include aspirations for better life for themselves and their families.
5. The paper needs thorough editing
6. Here's a useful reference: Siegmann, K.A. (2010). Strengthening whom? the role of international migration for women and men in Northwest Pakistan, *Progress in Development Studies* 10, 4: pp. 345–61.