

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.

Revision and Detailed Comments for Manuscript on Internal Migration and Mental Disorders in Nepal

Title and Abstract:

- **Suggestion:** The title is clear and concise. However, the abstract could benefit from a brief mention of the key findings and their implications for public health in Nepal.
- **Strengths:** Provides a comprehensive background on the global and local context of mental disorders.
- **Limitations:** The abstract lacks specifics on the study's results and does not summarize the conclusion.

Methodology:

- **Strengths:** The use of the latest data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey and the inclusion of computer-assisted personal interviewing are commendable.
- **Limitations:** The method of defining mental disorders based on a single self-reported question could be a significant limitation. The validity and reliability of this method in diagnosing mental disorders need to be addressed.
- **Comments:** Clarify whether ethical approval was obtained for the study and elaborate on the psychometric tools used.

Results:

- **Strengths:** The presentation of data in tables with frequencies, odds, and confidence intervals is clear and aids in understanding.
- **Limitations:** The lack of detailed analysis on how internal migration specifically impacts mental disorders is a gap. More in-depth analysis of the relationship between migration and mental health is needed.
- **Comments:** Consider discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic and local elections might have influenced the study results.

Introduction:

- **Strengths:** The introduction provides a thorough background on mental disorders globally and in Nepal.
- **Limitations:** The introduction could be more focused on setting the context for internal migration and its possible link with mental health, as that is the study's primary focus.
- **Comments:** Include recent literature to support the study's rationale, particularly concerning internal migration and mental health.

Study Design and Sampling:

- **Strengths:** The two-stage stratified sampling method is a robust approach for this type of study.
- **Limitations:** The study design section lacks information on how the researchers addressed potential biases and confounding factors.
- **Comments:** Explain the rationale behind selecting the age range of 15-49 years for the study population.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Analysis:

- **Strengths:** The comprehensive analysis of socio-demographic characteristics provides valuable insights.
- **Limitations:** There seems to be a lack of discussion on how these socio-demographic factors specifically interact with internal migration to impact mental health.
- **Comments:** It would be beneficial to include a discussion on the cultural and social context of Nepal, as it relates to migration and mental health.

Overall Evaluation:

- The manuscript provides important insights into the relationship between internal migration and mental disorders in Nepal.
- The methodology is robust, but the paper could benefit from more in-depth discussion on the limitations of using self-reported data for diagnosing mental disorders.
- The study's implications for public health policy, particularly in the context of internal migration and mental health in low- and middle-income countries, should be explored in more detail.

In summary, the manuscript is a valuable contribution to the field but would benefit from revisions that address the methodological limitations, provide a deeper analysis of the results, and discuss the broader implications for mental health policy in Nepal.