Nepali Migrants to the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: Values, Behaviors, and Plans
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Survey Selection Bias
- Migrants are a large proportion of the population in many countries worldwide.
- Migrants are usually a visible group, most often young and male.
- Due to a lack of effective procedures to survey representative samples of migrants at destination, they are most often not included in population-based surveys.

THE PROBLEM
Large selection biases in population-based surveys on any topic.

GOAL 1: Develop an effective and efficient method for surveying a representative sample of migrants at destination.

THE METHOD
Built on the Chitwan Valley Family Study (CVFS),
- A representative population sample in the Chitwan Valley of Nepal
- Longitudinal panel study since 1996

Step 1 - 2008 household interviews
- Identified all “households” regardless of current residence
- Collected information on all non-moving “household members”
- Location of current residence
- Contact information
- Dates of expected return or visits to Nepal
- Representative sample of 526 Nepali migrants living in 6 GCC countries

Step 2 - 2008 migrant interviews
- By telephone at destination (443)
- Face-to-face in Nepal for returns or visits (48)
- Average interview time: 1.18 minutes
- Response rate: 89% (468 people)

TIPS
- Build on existing survey
- Trust between household respondents & interviewers already developed
- Use interviewers from the respondents’ home country
- Interviewers speak the same language
- Respondents enjoyed speaking with someone from home.

South Asia → Persian Gulf Migration Stream
- The Persian Gulf is a major destination for South Asian Labor Migrants.
- Approximately 15 million South Asians in the GCC countries.
- A large proportion of the population of each country is comprised of migrants.

THE PROBLEM
Little is known about these migrants and how they impact their host countries (GCC) and their origin countries (South Asia).

GOAL 2: Understand Nepali migrants to the GCC countries.

Who are they?

Demographic Characteristics
- Married: 55%
- Divorced: 19%
- Average age: 22.3 years
- Average education: 9.08 years

Where are they?

INCOME, REMITTANCES
Gulf Migrants
Monthly Salary: 310 USD
House Rent: 225 USD
Utility and communications: 105 USD
Other Benefits: 91 USD
Net monthly income: 29.4 USD
Transport: 81 USD

What do they do?

What determines their wages and remittances?

INFLUENCES ON WAGES AND REMITTANCES (OLS Regression)
VALUES AND BELIEFS
Gulf Migrants
Non-Migrants in Nepal
Total significance level

Changes in lifestyle at a young age: 16% 15% 14%
Less crime, more law and order: 10% 10% 7%
Living with family and friends: 20% 10% 6%
Having a job at home: 20% 5% 1%
Machine-made food vs. home-cooked food: 6% 8% 6%
On-site salary vs. off-site wages: 1% 1% 1%
Eating in a hotel vs. eating homemade food: 5% 7% 7%
Vaccination against communicable diseases: 1% 1% 1%
Getting married after 29 years old: 1% 1% 1%
Perceived social competition: 2% 5% 1%
Perceived social pressure: 4% 8% 7%
Having a job at home: 10% 10% 3%
Getting married after 29 years old: 1% 1% 1%