Intersections Between Female Sex Workers’ and Male Migrant Workers’ Mobility: Implications for HIV Prevention Programs in India

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Conclusions
A significant portion of mobile female sex workers (FSWs) strategize their mobility according to migrant male workers (MMWs)’ mobility. The strategic mobility among FSWs, and resulting increased HIV risks, perhaps at the need for focused programming, especially among mobile FSWs and their clients, specifically in MHP programs.

Background
Mobility is widely recognized as one of the most facilitating conditions of HIV transmission on the world (Deksse et al. 1997; Massey and Mollenkopf 1987). Quene et al. (1994) show that migration is one of the risk factors for HIV transmission, especially among migrant workers. Migrant workers are considered to be at higher risk for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections (STI) (Pison et al. 1993; Chane et al. 1993; Lagarde et al. 1996; Barongo et al. 1992; Lagarde et al. 1998). Sexual transmission of HIV is exacerbated by this mobility, with migrant workers spending long periods of time away from home and frequently, visiting sex workers—two sources helping them to protect their HIV status.

The experience of interventions in programs in India suggests that FSWs see mobility as highly desirable within and between districts and states (Chrunamala et al. 2006). The migration of sex workers to other places is likely to search for work and to avoid social stigma from family and community members (Chrunamala et al. 2006). The growing challenge for tracking FSWs for sustained interventions in India is due to their routine mobility through their movement to work in different locations.

Objectives
1) Describe the mobility routes of FSWs and MMWs and to identify the intersections in their mobility.
2) Understand client use in behavior in places where migrant men congregate, and
3) Examine the relationships between mobility and HIV risk among FSWs.

Methods
Cross-sectional behavioral study of FSWs and MMWs from the four states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, India. This study was conducted from 2006 to 2007 in 29 districts in Southern and Western India during 2006 to 2007.

Mobile FSWs were those aged 18 years or older who moved to at least two places in the last two years for sex work (with one of those older who moved to at least two places in the last two years). Mobile FSWs were those aged 18 years or older who moved to at least two places in the last two years for sex work (with one of those older who moved to at least two places in the last two years). Mobile MMWs were those aged 18 years or older who moved to at least two places in the last two years for sex work (with one of those older who moved to at least two places in the last two years for sex work).

The data on major routes of mobility were used for significance level. All analyses were set at p < 0.05. Simple logistic regression models and models adjusted for sociodemographic variables document intersections in patterns of mobility among mobile FSWs and their clients, specifically in MMW workplaces. The stratified sampling of mobile FSWs in places of migrant work locations are higher for those aged below 25 years, older, dichotomous and multiple mobility patterns exist.

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