

## **ABSTRACT**

Migration of labour forces from one area to another has come to provide an infectious agent like HIV a larger and a more porous environment to circulate. Men who migrate alone on a temporary basis in search of better economic opportunities, leaving their families in the native place, and mobile workforces whose nature of job is such that it entails long periods of absence from home, have been identified as being at risk of HIV infection. Indulgence in risk behaviours facilitating transmission of HIV during their sojourns away from home, not only place the men at risk, but also leads to their emergence as vectors in the transmission of the virus from one area to another and, one population to another.

The present study deals with temporary rural migrants from West Bengal (India) who leave their families in the villages to take up employment in various cities of India to work as gold artisans. This study explores their risk behaviours in the context of HIV infection and the societal context in which such behaviours exist. Also included is the study of the risk of HIV infection faced by the spouses of migrant artisans consequent to behaviours indulged in by their husbands. The existing levels of knowledge, attitudes and beliefs related to HIV/AIDS together with information seeking practices in both groups (migrants and their spouses) have also been included. Based on the findings, suitable intervention strategies have been suggested.

### **Key Words**

HIV/AIDS

Risk Behaviours

Intervention

Migration/Migrants

Knowledge and Attitude