

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Migration for healthcare: exploring access to healthcare as a factor for internal migration in India**

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Migration is often defined as a movement in pursuit of improved opportunities and is a popular means of survival and accumulation across the globe. There are an estimated 40 million internal migrants in India, most of them working in urban centres. Other than the need for employment and work, access to affordable and quality healthcare is a push factor for internal migration, with lakhs of patients and their families migrate to metropolitan cities to access hospital care. As India rapidly cements its position as a global destination for medical tourism, internal migration for healthcare is matching pace as well. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai have emerged as centres for good quality public-funded and charitable health care infrastructure catering to patients from villages and small towns belonging to regions with poor healthcare infrastructure. This paper explores the context within which migrations for healthcare are undertaken and experienced by patients belonging to low-income groups. Based on empirical research with migrant patients with chronic medical conditions in Delhi and Mumbai, the paper contextualizes everyday experiences of migrant patients within the country's public and private healthcare trajectories and the contemporary debates on access to healthcare.