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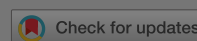
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Long Distance Truck Drivers and the Structural Context of Health: A Culture-Centered Investigation of Indian Truckers' Health Narratives

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Pages 230-241 | Published online: 12 Aug 2015

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2014.947466>



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of these narratives, I present three themes: (a) the everyday violence of trucking, (b) health as sacrifice, and (c) migration and HIV/AIDS. I discuss how communication interventions can attend to the relationship between trucker health and the structural barriers they encounter.

Notes

¹ The NACP updates its programmatic agendas and thrust areas every five years. NACP-III refers to the third (and most current) phase.

² For instance, Agrawal et al. ([2012](#)) describe the trucker context as such: “During their journeys the drivers often stop at ‘dhabas,’ roadside hotels that usually provide food, rest, sex workers, alcohol and drugs. They pick up the women, use them [emphasis mine] and leave them at some other ‘dhaba,’ where they are used by other drivers and local youths.”

³ A recent cross-sectional assessment of India’s national trucker-based sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention intervention revealed that nearly 50% of truckers that plied targeted routes reported zero exposure to any prevention messaging (Pandey et al., [2016](#)).

⁴ More details on the intervention can be found in the full report (<http://www.nacp.gov.in>).

⁵ The women who were interviewed for this study were stopped at various points along the route. Commercial drivers, who are responsible for the nature of the work, often have to deal with bureaucratic procedures, other drivers, and the police. They wait until the truck is stopped.

⁶ All names have been changed to protect the identity of the community members.

⁷ These were instances where the participant had to leave the yard, or was called to process his papers, or chose to end the interview. Data from these interviews were not used, in accordance with maintaining voluntary nature of participation.

⁸ The research study was deemed “exempt” by the IRB at the institution where its approval was sought; therefore, information sheets were provided to the participants.

⁹ In India, matriculation is often colloquially used to refer to the completion of a high school degree, or what is sometimes called a “matriculate degree.”

¹⁰ Among those truckers that reported being married.

¹¹ It is outside the scope of this article to discuss in detail the reflexive intricacies of navigating different ideologies related to HIV/AIDS. Often, my self-identified privileged discourses clash with localized etiologies. At times these allow for more engaged conversations and deeper questioning, while at others, these create a rhetorical impasse.

Additional information

Funding

This research was funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) under award number R01DA043890. The content is solely the responsibility of the researcher and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH or the Department of Health and Human Services.

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