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Determinants of Subjective Well-Being of Migrants: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

The study aims to comprehensively analyze existing literature to derive insights into the determinants of Subjective Well-being (SWB) among migrants and identify underexplored areas within the research landscape, proposing directions for future studies. Utilizing the PRISMA framework, 22 relevant peer-reviewed articles published between 2000 and 2024 were selected, excluding books, conference proceedings, and dissertations. The analysis considered factors such as publication year, geographical scope, methodology, and sector. The findings of this investigation reveal that research on migrants' SWB is predominantly quantitative, with a significant lack of nuanced perspectives. Most studies focus on developed countries, resulting in an underrepresentation of developing regions. Further, more economic, psychological, and legal exploration is needed, particularly in diverse sectors and marginalized groups, to inform comprehensive support and policy measures. A significant contribution of this study lies in presenting a conceptual model that enriches the theoretical comprehension of the determinants influencing migrants' SWB. It furnishes invaluable insights into the multifaceted interplay of environmental, societal, economic, demographic, and legal factors in shaping the well-being of migrants. By addressing these identified gaps, future research endeavours have the potential to provide evidence-based insights that can effectively guide policymakers and other relevant organizations in improving the well-being of migrants across different contexts.

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1.0 Introduction

Migration, the movement of individuals or groups from one location to another, is a multifaceted phenomenon that has profound implications for both the migrants themselves and the societies they join (Podra et al., 2020). As individuals and communities embark on relocation journeys, they navigate complex challenges and opportunities with profound implications for their SWB (White et al., 2014; Mago, 2018). Recently, the SWB of migrants has been a critical area of investigation within the fields of migration studies, psychology, and public health. Diener (1984) defined SWB as “a person feeling and thinking his or her life is desirable regardless of how others see it.” As individuals or groups relocate across geographical borders or within national boundaries, their subjective experiences of happiness, life satisfaction, and overall well-being undergo dynamic transformations influenced by many factors.

Numerous experts have explored the relationship between SWB and various attributes, including personality traits, health status, wealth, religious commitment, family dynamics, educational and professional experiences, relationship satisfaction, cognitive processes, emotion regulation, and cultural influences (Eid & Larsen, 2008). Furthermore, factors such as social connections, genetic predispositions, environmental circumstances, employment, marital status, age, cultural background, and individual characteristics have been identified as significant factors of SWB (Diener & Seligman, 2002; Lucas & Diner, 2008; Liu, Zhang, Wu, Liu, & Li, 2017; Azizan & Mahmud, 2018). Diener and Suh (1997) identified elements such as life satisfaction, depression, and anxiety, and experiencing positive and negative emotions and moods integral in assessing individuals' SWB. Diener, Oishi, and Lucas (2015) argued that various governmental policies, such as income security via pensions, unemployment insurance, and disability compensation, have been linked with SWB. Actively delving into SWB research holds significance for both scholars and practitioners as the findings can inform policymakers in crafting pertinent public policies that cater to migrants' fundamental needs and aspirations, thereby potentially enhancing their overall well-being (Azizan & Mahmud, 2018).

Studies have been conducted to identify the determinants of SWB, but these determinants have not been specifically examined in relation to migrants. Despite the extensive body of research on SWB, there are still difficulties in understanding the unique factors that influence migrants' SWB. Hence, the present study aims to conduct a systematic review of the conceptualization of SWB in the past, identify the existing literature on the determinants of SWB among migrants and their influence, and highlight the research gaps in this domain. By identifying these gaps, the study proposes directions for future research. To achieve this goal, the literature on SWB has been reviewed from 2000 to 2024, beginning with the following research questions:

RQ1. How SWB is conceptualized in the past?

RQ2. What is the influence of the identified antecedents on the migrants' SWB?

RQ3. What potential research approaches and prospects for publication exist in the field of migrants' SWB based on the review performed in this study?

To achieve the objectives, the paper is organized in the following manner: Section 2 outlines the materials and methods employed in the study. Section 3 addresses the first objective, while Section 4 focuses on the second objective. Finally, Section 5 covers the third objective, highlighting the gaps in the current literature and proposing directions for future research.

2.0 Methodology

The literature review for this study was meticulously conducted following the PRISMA model, ensuring a thorough and transparent selection process for the included papers. The initial phase of the review involved a comprehensive examination of abstracts sourced from a range of reputable academic databases, namely Google Scholar, Science Direct, ProQuest, and JSTOR. These databases were selected due to their substantial coverage of academic papers across multiple domains, which is critical for encompassing a diverse range of research on the topic.

To identify relevant literature, specific search terms were employed, including “SWB of migrants,” “determinants of SWB of migrants,” and “domains of SWB of migrants.” These terms were carefully selected to encompass the different aspects of SWB among migrant populations, ensuring that the search was both inclusive and targeted. The search was confined to publications from the year 2000 to 2024, a period that reflects contemporary research and trends in the field, thus providing a current and relevant body of literature. The initial search yielded 57 articles. This collection of publications was manually screened by reviewing their titles and abstracts against a specific set of criteria detailed in Table 1. Additionally, Figure 1 outlines the search process used to employ the appropriate articles that support the goals of this study.

Table 1: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Articles published in peer-reviewed English-language journals	Articles that are irrelevant and do not match the title
Articles published in between year 2000 and 30 February 2024	The article which is not or not peer-reviewed or in the English language
Full-text articles available online	Duplicates and publications outside the specified timeframe
Research interest in including “SWB of migrants,” “determinants of SWB of migrants,” and “domains of SWB of migrants.”	Books chapters conference proceedings or dissertations that are not aligned with the research aims and objectives

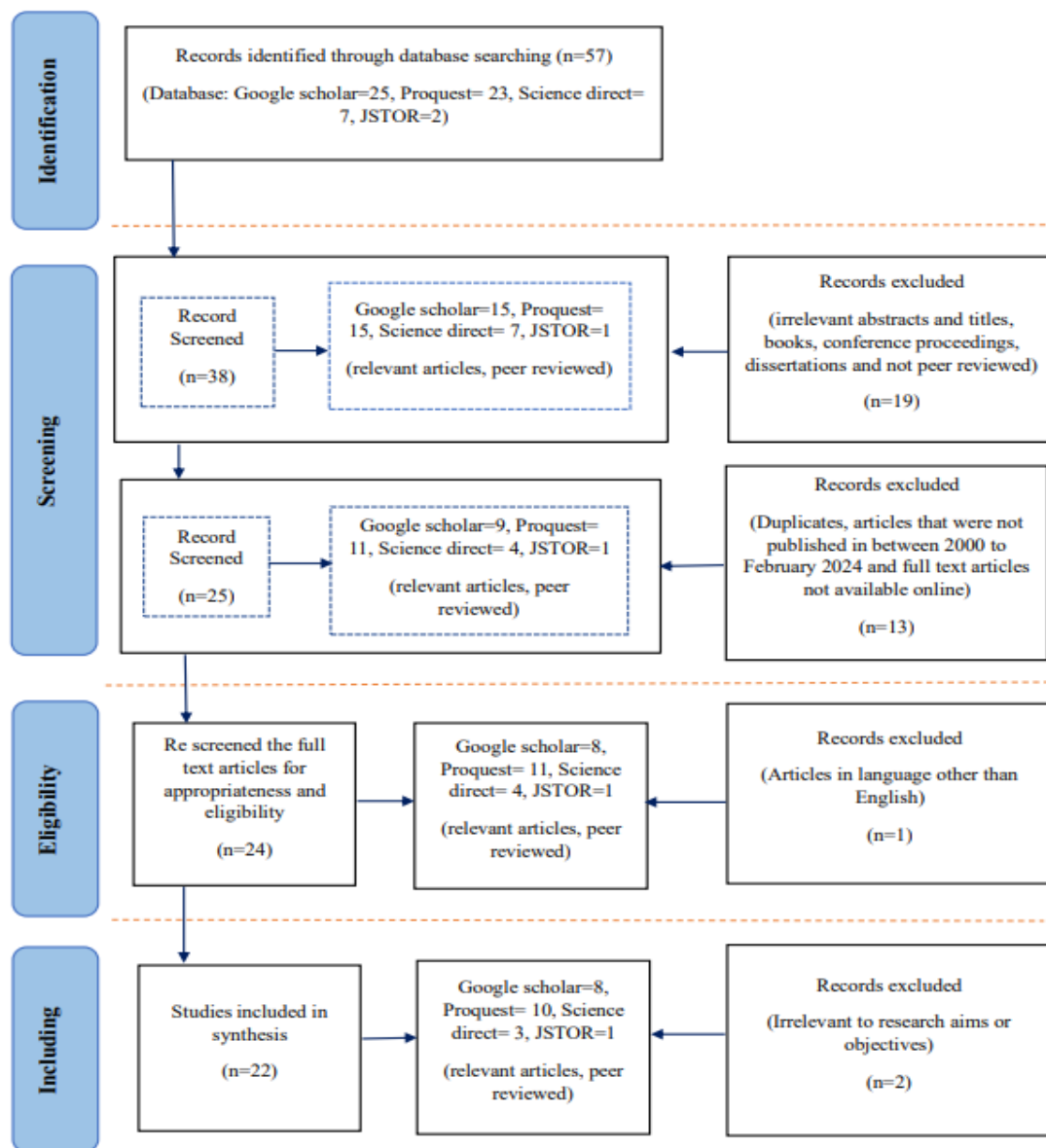


Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Chart Depicting the Process of Article Selection

During the screening phase, an initial pool of 38 articles was generated following the exclusion of studies that did not align with the scope of the study or lacked peer review. Subsequently, duplicates were identified and removed, alongside articles falling outside the predetermined publication timeframe of 2000 to 2024 and those inaccessible online, resulting in a refined set of 25 articles. Further refinement ensued with applying language-based filtering criteria, yielding a subset of 24 articles. This subset underwent a subsequent round of scrutiny to assess alignment with the research objectives,

culminating in the retention of 22 articles for further analysis. This methodical approach ensured that the selected articles were not only pertinent but also met rigorous standards of academic quality, thereby enhancing the robustness and credibility of the study's outcomes.

3.0 Literature Review

3.1 Evaluation and Conceptualization of Subjective Well-being

This section explores SWB's evaluation and conceptualization, examining its definitions, measurement methodologies, and contemporary perspectives.

From ancient times, humans have sought to understand the ingredients of a good life. Researchers investigating SWB argue that happiness is central to defining what constitutes a good life. In this context, happiness encompasses a spectrum of elements such as pleasure, life satisfaction, positive emotions, the quest for meaning, and a sense of contentment. Early philosophical perspectives, exemplified by Democritus, posit that happiness is contingent upon one's response to life's circumstances rather than material possessions. However, this viewpoint was subsequently eclipsed by the Aristotelian notion of *eudaimonia*, emphasizing the importance of possessions (Tatarkiewicz, 1976). While "happiness" is frequently used in general discussions, scholars often prefer the term "SWB" due to its clearer and more precise connotations. In the early 20th century, scholars across various disciplines and geographic regions initiated empirical inquiries into SWB. Notable contributions include Andrews and Withey's (1976) introduction of the cognitive component of life satisfaction and Campbell, Converse, and Rodgers' (1976) exploration of domain satisfaction as a constituent of SWB. A seminal review conducted by Diener in 1984 revealed a pervasive sense of SWB, irrespective of demographic variables. Subsequently, the field has witnessed a proliferation of SWB research since 1990.

The academic discourse surrounding SWB has grown considerably, buoyed by scholars, policymakers, and the public's interest. Researchers have employed various operational definitions and measurement methodologies within this domain to

investigate SWB and its associated constructs. Numerous scholars posit that SWB is indispensable for evaluating the quality of life, encompassing individuals' subjective experiences that encompass both hedonic sensations and cognitive evaluations. Diener and Suh (1997) propose that SWB entails a higher degree of life satisfaction, minimal negative affect, and the presence of positive emotions, encapsulating evaluations of specific life domains. Similarly, Diener et al. (2012) conceptualize SWB as a composite of cognitive and affective evaluations concerning overall life satisfaction, necessitating conscious judgments about one's well-being. The research article has surveyed the following factors.

4.0 Influence of the Identified Factors on the Migrants' SWB

4.1 Environmental Factors

Neighbourhood Physical Environment

The enhancement of residential environments plays a pivotal role in augmenting the physical attributes of neighbourhoods, including living standards, accessibility to transportation, and healthcare amenities, consequently fostering improvements in individuals' well-being, health, and cognitive capabilities (Shen & Lin, 2017). Notably, green spaces emerge as instrumental components in mitigating environmental stressors such as air pollution and noise, while concurrently bolstering cleanliness, safety measures, amenities, and community services (Zhu et al., 2022). Such interventions have been associated with a notable elevation in residents' satisfaction with their living conditions, accompanied by reductions in psychological stress levels and the generation of positive emotional states (Shen & Lin, 2017; Yang et al., 2020).

Neighbourhood Social Environment

The demographic composition of neighbourhoods and the characteristics of their residents play a significant role in identifying their health and well-being (Kepper et al., 2019). Research suggests that neighbourhoods with a higher concentration of long-time residents tend to report better mental health and self-assessed health status (Thiollet, 2011). However, in economically deprived areas, the presence of poverty can negatively

impact mental well-being due to a lack of social support networks and a lack of positive culture (Aminzadeh et al., 2013; Fone et al., 2007). Moreover, migrants living in impoverished neighbourhoods may experience lower levels of social well-being due to elevated levels of crime, antisocial behaviour, and substandard living conditions (Stafford et al., 2007). These environmental stressors can trigger negative emotions and adversely impact the Subjective Well-being (SWB) of migrants (Yuan et al., 2011).

Climate Variation

Changes in climate, including variations in temperature, rainfall, and seasonal shifts, significantly influence individuals' emotions, behaviours, and overall state of well-being. Research denotes that favourable weather conditions are linked to higher levels of subjective happiness (Feng & Oppenheimer, 2012). Conversely, severe weather events or adverse climate conditions can negatively impact overall well-being (Clark et al., 2007).

Physical Environment of the Living Area

The physical environment of the living area encompasses more than just the immediate neighbourhood and extends to the broader natural and built surroundings where individuals reside. Factors such as favourable climate conditions, access to, and easy access to good air condition, public amenities, markets, and banking facilities were found to positively correlate with SWB (Liu et al., 2019).

Residential Area

Studies found that the type of region: urban, suburban, or rural, has a considerable impact on the SWB of migrants. Migrants' SWB might be negatively impacted as a result of their settlement in low-income areas. Furthermore, densely populated metropolitan regions can provide goods and services more effectively than rural places, possibly contributing to higher levels of SWB of migrants (Simpson et al., 2009; Knies et al., 2016).

4.2 Societal Factors

Social Support

Social support refers to providing assistance and emotional support within social networks. Helliwell and Putnam (2004) discovered that contact with neighbours and friends significantly positively impacts migrants' SWB. It is essential for migrants, particularly those who do not get welfare benefits in their host city (Liu et al., 2015). It gives emotional support and help within social networks. Studies reveal that migrants seek social assistance to deal with financial challenges and stressful life events. Social support relieves homesickness, lowers stress, and boosts adaptation, positively impacting migrants' SWB (Jin et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2012). Community events, holiday gifts, and home visits all have a positive impact on the SWB of migrants (Liu et al., 2019).

Social Cohesion

Social cohesion encompasses the degree of interconnectedness, trust, and unity within a community, playing a vital role in maintaining mental health and fostering social order within neighbourhoods. It significantly impacts migrants' SWB, as supportive interactions with neighbours and friends contribute positively to social well-being by offering assistance and solidarity (Helliwell and Putnam, 2004).

Social Insurance Coverage

This includes pension insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance, work injury insurance, and the housing provident fund. Knight and Gunathilake (2010), have identified a positive relationship with the availability of social security and SWB of migrants. Medical insurance is regarded as vital because it can prevent migrants from anxiety about the chance of disease, which can result in severe financial stress due to both decreased earnings and pricey medical expenses, and lack of this facility has some negative impact on migrants' SWB (Gao and Smyth, 2011).

Self-Perceived Social Status

Migrants often perceive a shortage of resources which hurts their SWB (Cheng et al., 2013; Knight and Gunathilake, 2010). Prior studies indicate that migrants typically earn

lower wages and hold lower-status jobs compared to residents, leading to feelings of deprivation and dissatisfaction which negatively impact SWB (Wang & Fan, 2012; Cheng et al., 2013).

Religiosity

Engagement in religious activities positively influences SWB as beliefs, intrinsic religiousness, and attendance at places of worship are positively correlated with happiness (Diener et al. 2011). Religious practices offer psychological assistance, and religious institutions cater to the needs of new immigrants (Lelkes 2002).

Social Relationships and Activities

Close friends positively impact migrants' social well-being SWB by taking on extended family duties and sharing mutual interests. Long-term social ties raise SWB. Recent migrants, on the other hand, may struggle to create new ties in their new community due to the loss of homeland connections and generation divides. Good social ties reduce stress, decrease loneliness, and improve migrants' overall well-being, reporting a positive association (Liu et al., 2019).

Community-Level Health Facility

Having access to healthcare services positively affects migrants' SWB. These facilities provide migrants with easily reachable primary care services, cultural awareness, and ongoing support, leading to the development of trust and engagement within the community (Liu et al., 2016).

Social Fairness

As the economy improves, individuals' perceptions of social fairness transition from a focus on scarcity to concerns about unequal distribution, impacting their motivation to accomplish goals and their SWB. When perceptions of fairness decrease, motivation diminishes, resulting in adverse effects on SWB (Barger et al., 2008).

Social Class Change

Positive changes in social class, such as enhanced economic opportunities and improved access to education, positively impact migrants' SWB. Conversely, experiencing a downward shift in social class can lead to stress and feelings of social isolation, thereby negatively affecting migrant SWB. Increased earnings among migrant workers in urban settings can elevate their social status (Rick, 2013).

Local Nonmigrant's Attitude towards Immigrants

Unwelcoming circumstances significantly hinder immigrants' integration into their new communities (Maggio, 2021). These adverse conditions often manifest as social isolation, where immigrants struggle to form connections and build a support network, leading to feelings of loneliness and decreased SWB (Esses, 2021). Conversely, a hospitable environment fosters positive interactions with non-immigrants, facilitating immigrants' adjustment to their new society and reporting a positive association with the SWB of migrants (Vervoort et al., 2010).

Socio-Cultural Activities

Engagement in sociocultural events may bring people closer to those who have common engagement in socio-cultural activities can promote empathy, tolerance, and appreciation for diversity, potentially mitigating bias and prejudice and positively impacting SWB (SWB). These activities aid newcomers in grasping the nuances of the host culture, accessing resources, and building social connections. However, challenges such as reconciling differences between their parents' cultural values and those of the host country may lead to adverse outcomes (Zhou 1997).

Leisure Time

Leisure activities and social contacts contribute significantly to SWB by encouraging social engagement and providing opportunities to meet new people. Participating in sports such as martial arts, gymnastics, and swimming increases the likelihood of socializing, highlighting the significance of social ties as a primary predictor of SWB (Kahneman and Krueger 2006).

4.3 Demographic Factors

Physical and Mental Health

Good health is perceived as a valuable asset for a fulfilling life, contributing positively to the SWB of migrants. Nonetheless, illness presents a significant challenge to health, particularly for rural-to-urban migrants confronted with adverse working conditions, limited awareness of disease prevention, and lower economic standing (Liu et al., 2019). Poor health and physical ailments can hinder work productivity, thus negatively affecting overall life satisfaction (Mao & Zhao, 2012).

Housing type

The availability of government-provided public rental housing and rental accommodations offering relatively high living standards impacts positively the SWB of migrants (Huang & Chen, 2022).

Housing Size and Facilities

Adequate housing amenities, such as well-equipped kitchens, access to gardens, and balconies, play a significant role in boosting migrants' overall satisfaction and reducing their perceived stress levels. Studies report that the decrease in stress lowers the likelihood of illness and has a positive influence on SWB (Yi & Zhu, 2015).

House Ownership

Migrants who own their homes are more likely to adapt successfully to their new surroundings, resulting in higher levels of happiness and mental health (Li et al., 2017). Studies reveal that having a home helps migrants to participate in community events, interact with locals, and form social bonds, easing their absorption into the city, which correlates positively with SWB (Hu & Ye, 2020).

Housing Prices

High housing prices can impact migrants' SWB through both direct and indirect means. Liao et al., (2022), discovered that excessive housing costs can lead to mental stress, family disruption, and a reduction in leisure time causing a negative impact on SWB.

Further, the study indicates that property prices may result in family separation and increased work hours, exacerbating the challenges faced by migrants (Wang et al., 2013).

Education

Education is important for migrants' SWB, as seen by the positive relationship between education and ambitions. Higher degrees of education have an impact on work opportunities, stability, and less probability of facing discrimination in the labor market (Clark and Oswald, 2002). Education is positively associated with migrant SWB with the ability to manage their surroundings and raise their goals (Van Tubergen et al. 2004; Heath et al. 2008).

Presence of Children in the household (Parenthood)

Some studies report a positive relationship between parenthood and migrants' SWB (Kotowska et al. 2010), while others have reported that having children may negatively impact migrants' SWB (Clark et al. 2008).

Country of Origin

Migrants' countries of origin considerably impact career prospects, social exclusion, and income (Stranges et al., 2020). Silberman et al. 2007 and Simon 2003, studies indicate that immigrants originating from developed countries experience fewer obstacles in the labor market and exhibit a positive correlation with SWB. Conversely, immigrants from underdeveloped nations encounter greater challenges, leading to a negative impact on their SWB.

Marital Status

Argyle and Furnham (1983) stated that married people are happy because they have a strong social bond as well as financial and mental assistance. These effects appear to hold for stable, unmarried partners as well (Brown, 2000). Meyer and Dunga (2014) discovered that parenthood and marriage increase life satisfaction, whereas marital separation lowers it.

Work Experience

Migrants' less work experience could reduce SWB due to legal immigration status, low qualifications, and problems integrating into the labor field, which causes adaptation challenges (Aycan & Berry, 1996).

Local Language Proficiency

Language proficiency is a critical factor that significantly influences immigrants' social and economic success. Mastery of the host country's language facilitates communication, allowing immigrants to navigate everyday interactions, access services better, and engage with the local community. Language skills are directly linked to improved employment opportunities and higher earnings, as they enable immigrants to compete more effectively in the job market and pursue career advancement (Chiswick and Miller 2002). Hence, language proficiency significantly boosts happiness and SWB (Beier and Kroneberg 2013).

Automobile Ownership

Owning an automobile increases independence and SWB. Owning a car enhances the well-being of rural and urban residents, increasing their feeling of fulfilment. Further, car ownership aids in integrating migrant labourers into urban environments, lowering psychological stress and enhancing well-being. According to studies, owning a car is positively associated with migrants' SWBs (Wang et al., 2020).

4.4 Psychological Factors*Higher Level of Self-Esteem*

Optimism is defined as the overarching belief that positive outcomes will occur in the future, which helps immigrants maintain a positive outlook despite the challenges they face in their new environment. This positive mindset can buffer against the stress and adversity associated with adapting to a new culture, thereby promoting mental and emotional resilience (Uskul & Greenglass, 2005). Additionally, optimism, along with intentional activities such as comparison processes and proactive coping strategies, is

associated with greater well-being. Proactive coping strategies, such as seeking social support and acquiring new skills, help immigrants manage their integration process effectively. Together, these approaches enhance resilience and contribute to higher levels of subjective well-being (Vohra & Adair, 2000).

Loneliness

Loss of familial psychological protection causes emotional suffering. Loneliness is a personal experience that differs from person to person, typified by bad sensations when a person senses a gap between wanted and existent social ties (Sanchon et al., 2015). Studies have shown that loneliness has a negative impact on migrants' SWB (Mellor et al., 2008).

Sense of Belonging

Successful integration of migrants into their host community is crucial for fostering a sense of belonging, which is significantly influenced by the emotional ties they form with others. A strong sense of belonging arises when migrants feel accepted and valued within their new environment, and this connection is essential for their overall well-being. Studies reveal that belongingness is positively associated with subjective well-being (SWB), highlighting its importance for mental and emotional health. When migrants develop meaningful relationships and actively participate in their community, they experience a greater sense of stability and contentment, which enhances their quality of life (Kelly, 2001).

Relationship and Harmony in a Family

Lack of family time and the presence of family conflicts due to individual and behavioural incompatibility can lead to significant negative outcomes. These issues can result in feelings of loneliness and isolation, as well as a decrease in subjective well-being (SWB). Liu et al. (2019) highlight that the quality of family relationships plays a critical role in overall well-being. When family members experience harmony and mutual support, it contributes to their emotional and psychological health. Conversely,

ongoing conflicts and insufficient family interactions can undermine this support system, exacerbating stress and reducing overall life satisfaction.

4.5 Economic Factors

Income

According to studies, higher salaries correlate to greater life satisfaction among migrants. SWB is more affected by people's perceptions of money about their previous income and the earnings of their peers than absolute income. Personal revenue is critical for SWB, particularly for the impoverished (Hendriks and Burger 2018; Clark et al. 2008; Ball and Chernova 2007). Absolute income has a more significant influence than relative income, and the reference group's income has a negative impact on SWB (Caporale et al., 2009).

Time Spent on Work (Working Hours)

Living in a large urban area requires more time spent commuting to work (Sander, 2011). Meier and Stutzer (2006) discovered an inverse association between hours worked and happiness in life. This suggests that full-time work improves SWB compared to part-time jobs. This includes striking the right balance between work and personal time. However, travel time diminishes SWB because it takes away time for leisure activities (Stutzer and Frey, 2004).

Unemployment

Unemployment leads to a significant subjective cost in terms of loss of SWB. The experience of being unemployed is often associated with feelings of worthlessness, social isolation, and financial stress, all of which can severely impact mental and emotional health. Studies have found that unemployed individuals typically experience a substantial decline in SWB, and even after securing new employment, they often do not return to their previous levels of well-being (Lucas et al., 2004). This enduring impact suggests that the detrimental effects of unemployment extend beyond the period of joblessness

itself, potentially leading to long-term emotional scars and decreased life satisfaction. Therefore, it is the absence of employment, rather than being actively employed, that reduces the subjective well-being of migrants.

Job Mobility

Work mobility raised earnings, improved SWB, and enhanced work. Workers who change employment result in better income. Employees say that post-job modifications have a positive impact on SWB by increasing autonomy, and work diversity, reducing confrontations with managers, and improving training chances and job stability (Groes et al., 2014; Lam et al., 2012).

4.6 Legal Factors

Government Support

Rodríguez-Pose and Maslauskaitė (2011) found that effective government support in terms of health as well as welfare leads to increased SWB. Similarly, transparency and good governance in administering public have a positive effect on individual well-being (Frey and Stutzer, 2000; Carcaba et al., 2017).

Integration Policies

When focusing on immigrants as a whole, their well-being and the factors that improve or worsen it are markers of a country's success in developing successful integration policies and assisting immigrant communities (Liu et al., 2017).

By synthesizing the findings from the literature review on the determinants of migrants' SWB, the researcher examines how environmental, societal, economic, demographic, psychological, and legal factors (as depicted in Figure 2) are associated with SWB. The conceptual model presented illustrates how these factors act as both antecedents and outcomes of SWB among migrants.

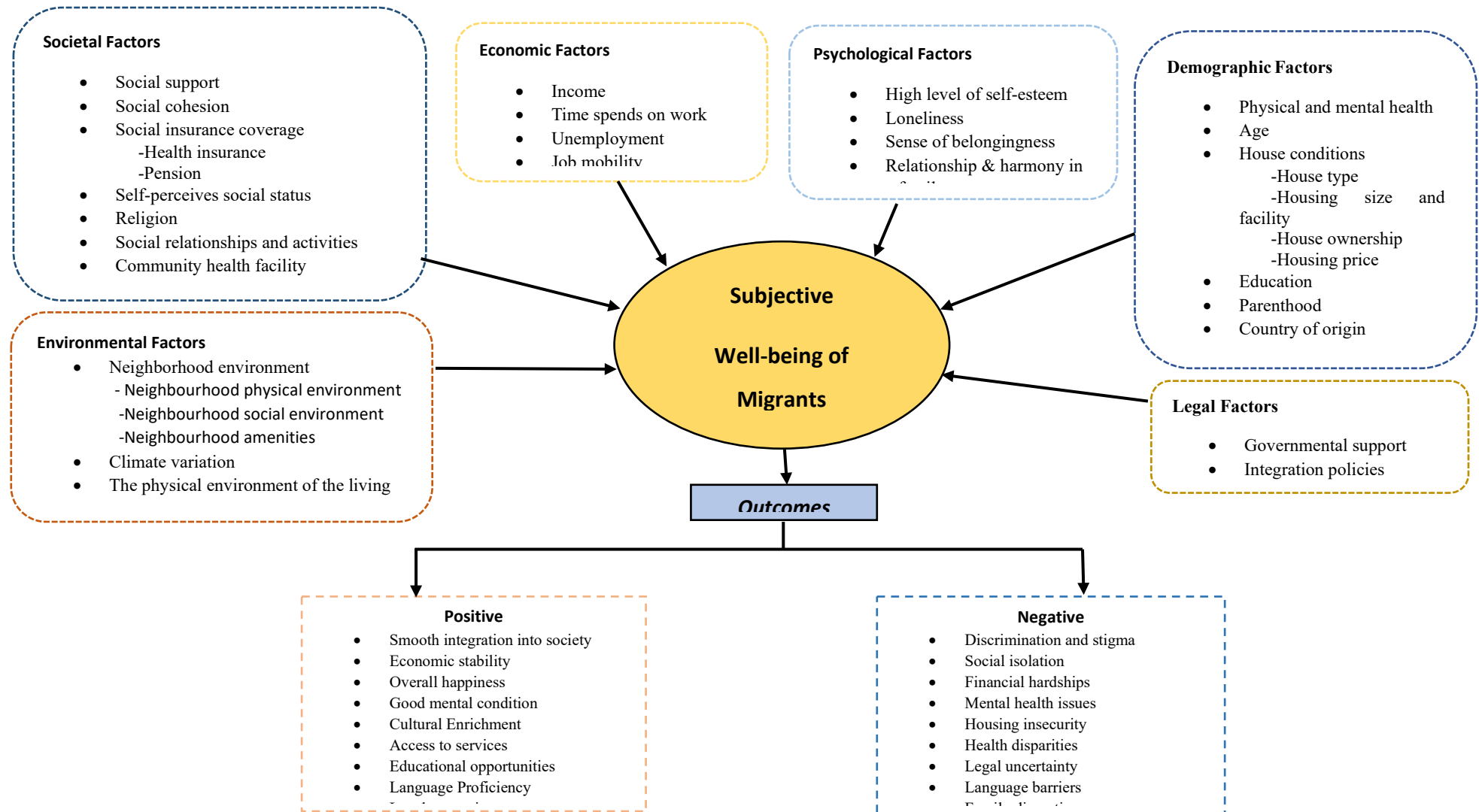


Figure 2: Framework for Antecedents and Outcomes of Migrants' SWB

5.0 Analysis and Results

This section presents a statistical analysis that covers the distribution of published papers; the countries represented a basic classification of the papers, methodology-based categorization, and sector-based categorization. The objective is to elucidate the prevailing research approaches and identify potential avenues for publication within the field of migrants' subjective well-being (SWB).

5.1 Distribution of Articles based on Published Year

The review of migrants' SWB included studies conducted from 2000 to 2024. Notably, no studies were published during the initial period. The highest number of papers, 22 in total, emerged between 2014 and 2024, with 6 studies being published in 2023 alone. Across the years 2014 to 2024, the distribution of articles was as follows: 1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, and 1 study published in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2024, respectively. This pattern indicates a clear upward trajectory, as illustrated in Figure 3.

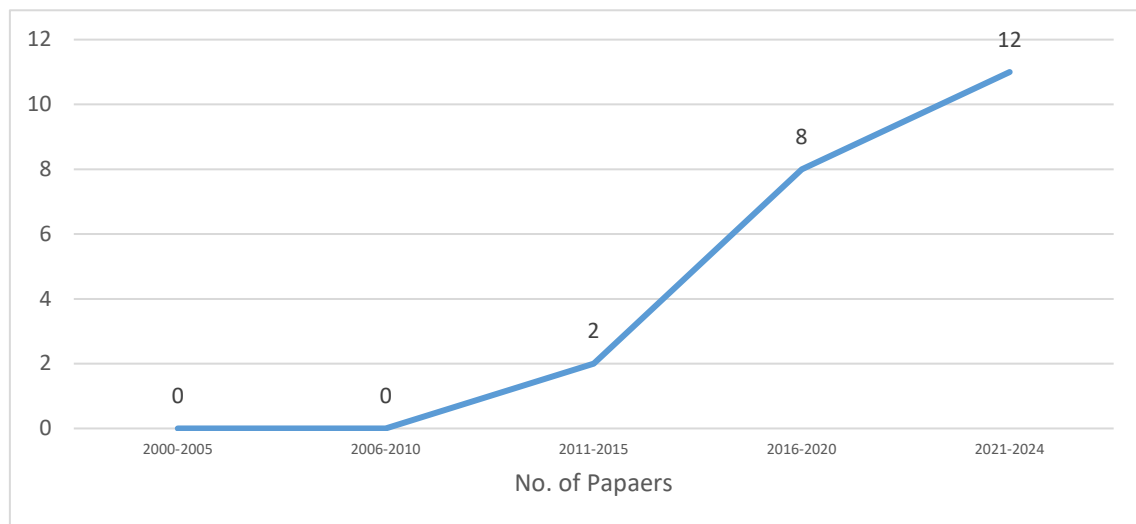


Figure 3: Distribution of Articles based on Published Year

5.2 Basic Classification

The review encompassed 22 indexed research works authored by over 50 individuals and published across 19 journals. Geographically, the research spanned 10 countries, including Africa, China, Switzerland, Germany, Europe, Ethiopia, Spain, Italy, the USA, and the UK, among others. Notably, China's contribution to publications reached a peak of 54.5%. Additionally, the Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health made the most significant contribution, accounting for 16% of the total, surpassing other journals.

Table 2: Journals Published

Name of the Journal	Articles Published
<i>BMJ journal</i>	1
<i>The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning</i>	1
<i>European Societies</i>	1
<i>Review of social economy</i>	1
<i>Urban Studies Journal</i>	1
<i>Heliyon</i>	1
<i>Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health</i>	1
<i>Journal of Migration</i>	1
<i>PLoS ONE</i>	1
<i>Social Indicators Research</i>	1
<i>Scientific reports</i>	1
<i>European Journal of Population</i>	1
<i>Journal of Happiness Studies</i>	2
<i>BMC Public Health</i>	1
<i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i>	3
<i>Comparative Migration Studies</i>	1
<i>International Review of Economics</i>	1
<i>China Economic review</i>	1
<i>NORDIC Journal of Migration Studies</i>	1

5.3 Geographical Distribution

The review encompassed papers from a global perspective, incorporating research from 11 countries. Notably, China made the largest contribution, accounting for up to 54.5% of publications on the migrants' SWB. Figure 4 depicts the involvement of other nations in SWB research concerning migrants.

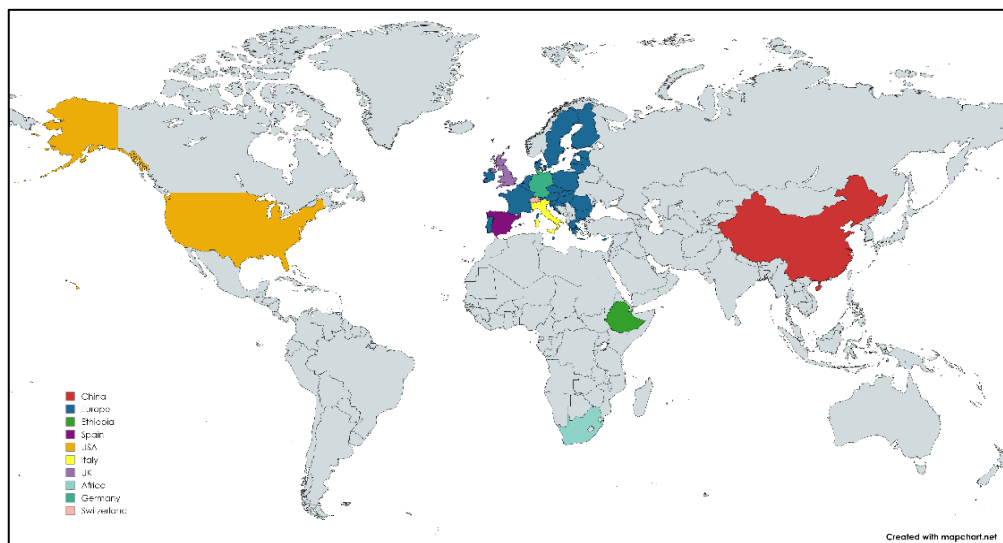


Figure 4: Geographical Distribution

5.4 Methodology-Based Categorization of Papers

The methodology-based categorization of studies included basic information such as research type, data collection methods, and data sources utilizing specific methodologies. The classification showed that 21 out of the 22 papers examined were conceptual, while only one paper was empirical. The author classified studies into three categories: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Conceptual. Most studies employed quantitative methods (17 studies), followed by qualitative studies with four papers and one paper based on conceptual analysis. Additionally, in terms of data collection methods, 21 papers utilized primary data collection, while only one relied on secondary data collection. Among primary methods, the questionnaire method was most prevalent, with interviews being less commonly used.

5.5 Sector-Based Categorization of Papers

This provides insight into the context in which the studies were conducted, defining the sectors or demographics involved. It indicates that 14 studies were conducted in a general context, without specification to any particular industry or profession. The remaining studies focused on specific demographics, including the elderly (3), youth (2), married individuals (1), and employed migrants (1).

6.0 Future Research Direction

6.1 Research Approaches and Region

Based on the review, more quantitative studies have been carried out than qualitative ones in the literature on migrants' SWB. Qualitative research using a comprehensive approach is still rare in finding the drivers of SWB in migrant studies. In future studies, researchers should use a mixed-method research technique in which they collect and examine both quantitative and qualitative data inside the same study. Mixed-methods research enables scholars to investigate multiple perspectives.

Furthermore, the overwhelming reliance on primary data collection methods, particularly the questionnaire method, suggests a propensity towards standardized instruments that may overlook the determinants of migrants' well-being. This emphasizes the need for a more nuanced approach to data collection that incorporates qualitative methodologies such as interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic observations to capture the complexity and contextuality of migrants' subjective well-being.

Future research should focus on detecting migrants' SWB in different regions. Despite the review's inclusion of ten countries, research from developing countries remains significantly underrepresented. This disparity suggests a need for more comprehensive and geographically diverse studies to capture migrants' nuanced experiences across different cultural, socio-economic, and political contexts.

Inversely, very few leading studies were conducted in developing countries or in third-world countries. This may be due to the prioritization of more pressing socio-economic issues, such as poverty alleviation, healthcare, and education, which may overshadow the importance of investigating SWB among migrants in developing countries. However, people from developing countries tend to migrate more because of the above-mentioned issues within their countries of birth and thus it requires more investigations of the determinants of the SWB of the migrants of these countries.

Moreover, the predominance of studies conducted in a general context, without specification to any particular industry or profession, points towards a lack of granularity in understanding the unique challenges and determinants of SWB within specific occupational sectors or industries. Future research endeavours should prioritize investigating the SWB of marginalized migrant groups and exploring the differential impacts of migration on various occupational sectors and industries. By doing so, researchers can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding migrants' well-being and inform targeted interventions and policy measures to support their holistic welfare and integration.

6.2 Antecedents

By understanding the areas where empirical evidence is lacking or inconclusive across environmental, societal, economic, demographic, psychological, and legal domains, researchers can prioritize investigations to fill these gaps comprehensively. Addressing these specific gaps fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring a holistic approach to migrant well-being research that remains responsive to the multifaceted challenges faced by migrant populations.

Environmental Factors

- According to the results, there has been no examination of the impact of environmental hazards and disasters on the SWB of migrants. Therefore, future

studies should pay more attention to this aspect.

Societal Factors

- Very few research has been conducted to investigate the influence of societal culture, including societal beliefs, norms, and value systems, on the SWB of migrants. This gap suggests that future studies should explore the impact of these factors on the SWB of migrants.

Economic Factors

- Research can be carried out to investigate topics such as employment stability, debt burden, financial obligations, access to skill development programs, and taxation regarding the migrants' SWB due to the existence of gaps in these areas.

Demographic Factors

- The impact of factors such as the decision to migrate and the duration of migration on the SWB of migrants has not been thoroughly examined in existing studies. Additionally, there is a need for further exploration of how family structure, age, ethnicity, and gender influence the migrants' SWB.
- Most of the research has been conducted in China and other developed nations such as the USA, UK, and Europe. Conversely, research is scarce in developing and underdeveloped countries regarding the SWB of migrants. Therefore, the study encourages conducting more research based on developing countries.
- Additionally, there is a lack of research addressing various sectors separately, including service sectors, health sector, doctors, and unorganized sectors. Therefore, future studies should pay more attention to this aspect.

Psychological Factors

- It is essential to examine the effects of acculturation stress, migration trauma, post-traumatic stress, and psychological sense of security on the migrant's SWB in future studies.

Legal Factors

- More research is needed to identify how access to legal representation, the citizenship process, and naturalization affect migrants' SWB.

7.0 Conclusion

The current research endeavours to conduct a systematic review to identify research gaps and suggest directions for future studies in the domain of migrants' SWB. To achieve this, literature on SWB of migrants from 2000 to 2024 was systematically examined, resulting in the identification of 22 scientific research papers from reputable journals. Only peer-reviewed papers written in English which relevant to the objectives of the study were included in the review. The paper identified six key factors: environmental, societal, economic, demographic, psychological, and legal, that influence the subjective well-being of migrants. The analysis revealed that the majority of papers, 12 out of 22, were published between 2021 and 2024, with China being the primary source of research publications on the SWB of migrants. Moreover, it was found that one journal contributed to 16% of the papers reviewed. The categorization indicated that 95% of the papers were conceptual, while only one was empirical. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 77% of the papers utilized quantitative methods, predominantly employing survey data collection. Sector-based classification demonstrated that the majority of research, 63%, was conducted in a general context.

It is possible that we may have missed certain papers, resulting in their exclusion from this review. Furthermore, as we exclusively considered papers in English, those in other languages were not included, indicating a limitation in our research. research directions to explore the relationships between these variables. Given the significance of SWB as a research area, these suggested directions hold importance for academics. The

review's findings underscore the scarcity of studies focusing on identifying the determinants affecting the SWB of migrants, indicating ample opportunities for further investigation in this field. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct additional research aimed at enhancing individuals' capacity to address the SWB of migrants. The study suggests conducting a comparison based on the sector to understand the factors that enhance the SWB of migrants. Further, studies can be carried out to see the different factors that influence migrated different generations for their SWB.

8.0 Implications

The discussion emphasizes the critical importance of understanding the factors that impact the SWB of migrants and highlights the need for further exploration across diverse contexts. With a limited number of studies focused on identifying these factors, there is a significant opportunity for academics to make substantial contributions and broaden understanding in this area. Therefore, the study encourages academics to engage in additional research aimed at uncovering the complex web of factors influencing SWB among migrant populations, particularly by addressing the identified gaps in existing research. This understanding is crucial not only for academics but also for policymakers and organizations seeking to enhance the well-being of migrants. By uncovering the determinants of SWB among migrants, policymakers and organizations can develop more targeted and effective interventions and policies aimed at improving migrants' quality of life and fostering their integration into society. Thus, this research implication underscores the importance of further research in this area to inform policy and practice for the betterment of migrant populations.

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Appendix 1

No.	Name	Year	Context	EF	SF	ECF	DF	PF	LF	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Country
1	Yuxi, Ingviya, Sangthong and Wan	2021	470 elderly migrants and 422 local residents	yes	yes					Quantitative	China
2	Liu, Zhang, Wu, Liu and Li	2016	467 migrants and 683 locals in Guangzhou	yes	yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	China
3	Stranges, Vignoli and Venturini	2020	272,230 natives and 45,814 migrants	yes						Quantitative	Europe
4	Liu, Liu and Lin	2020	1431 migrants living in urban areas				yes			Quantitative	China
5	Bonnefond and Mabrouk	2019	7846 adults' migrants	yes	yes		yes			Quantitative	China
6	Kebu, Berisso and Mulugeta	2023	694 youth migrants		yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	Ethiopia
7	Sanchon, Salceda, Bover and Paz-Zulueta	2016	10 migrants			yes	yes	yes		Qualitative	Spain
8	Cai, Esipova, Oppenheimer and Feng	2014	1,000,000 observations			yes				Qualitative	USA
9	Lou, D and, Qiao	2023	5477 migrants				yes			Qualitative	China

10	Carella, García-Pereiro, and Pace	2020	9553 married households		yes					Quantitative	Italy
11	Huang, Su, and Sun	2024	2030 migrant workers		yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	China
12	Šedovič	2023	1000 and 1500 individual		yes				yes	Quantitative	UK
13	Liao, Wu, and Zhang	2022	105,602 migrants				yes			Quantitative	China
14	Akokuwebe, Likoko, Osuafor and Idemudia	2023	26,686 internal and international migrants	yes	yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	Africa
15	Huang, Said, Goh, and Cao	2023		yes	yes					Conceptual	China
16	Liu, Liu, Chen, Xiao, and Wan	2023	470 migrant adults	yes	yes					Quantitative	China
17	Fang and Sakellariou	2015	3,498 rural-urban migrant workers	yes	yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	China
18	Burton, Aline, Consoli, Fakhoury, and Jackson	2021	175 migrants	yes	yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	Switzerland
19	Giovanis	2021	15,000 migrants		yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	Germany
20	Zhang, Liu, and Geng	2022	192 migrants		yes	yes	yes			Quantitative	China
21	Himmelstine and King	2019	20 young migrants		yes	yes	yes			Qualitative	UK
22	Prakash and Smyth	2019	1813 migrants			yes				Quantitative	China