

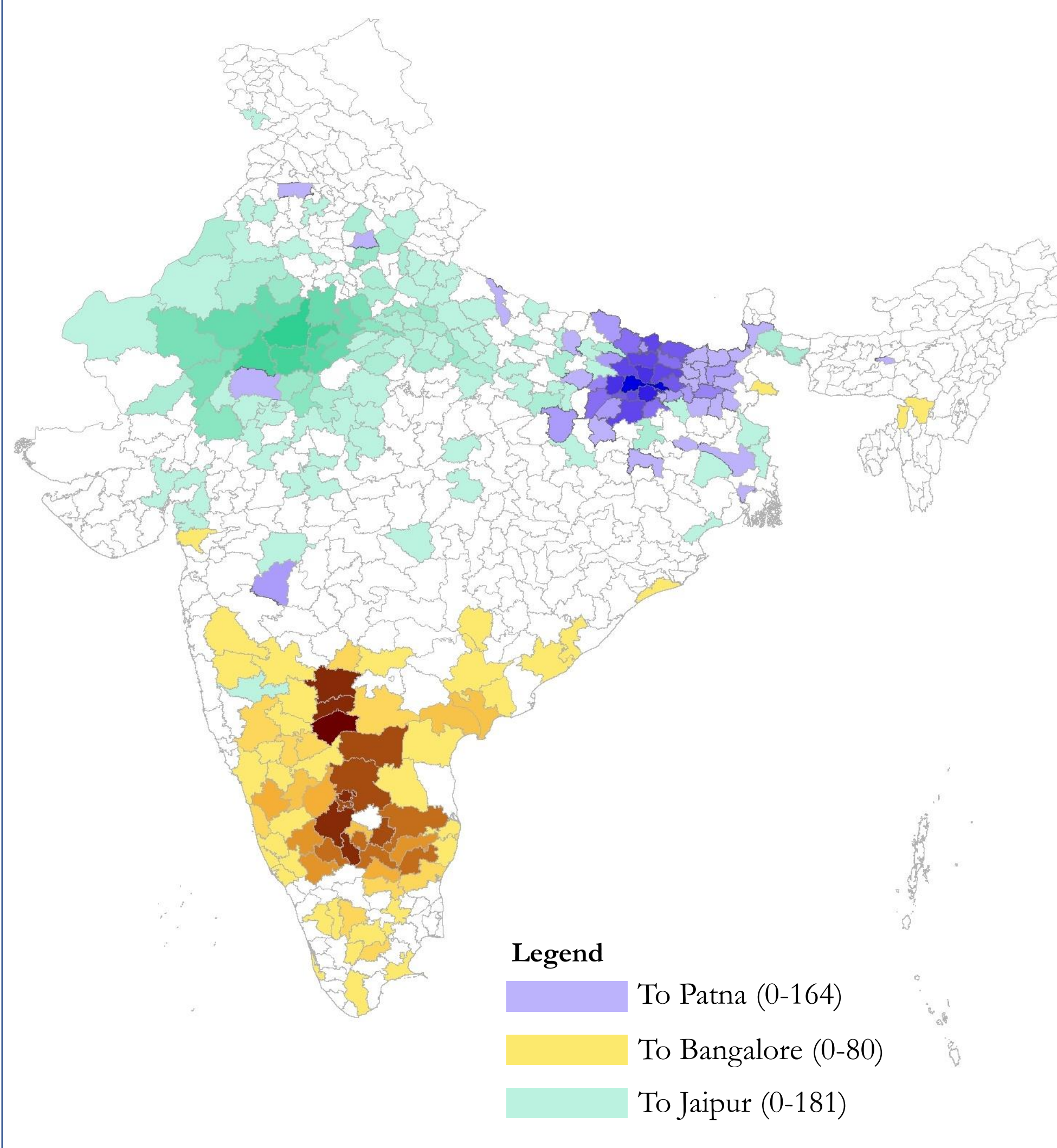
# Migration, Gender and Opportunity in India's Slums

Harlan Downs-Tepper, Doctoral Student, Duke Sanford School of Public Policy

## Background

- **Urban population expected to increase by 60% by 2050.** Most of this increase will be in resource-poor cities in Global South.
- **Virtually all urban growth in Asia and Africa is expected to accrue to slums.** Growth comes both from rural-to-urban migration and urban births.

Slum residents tend to come from close districts



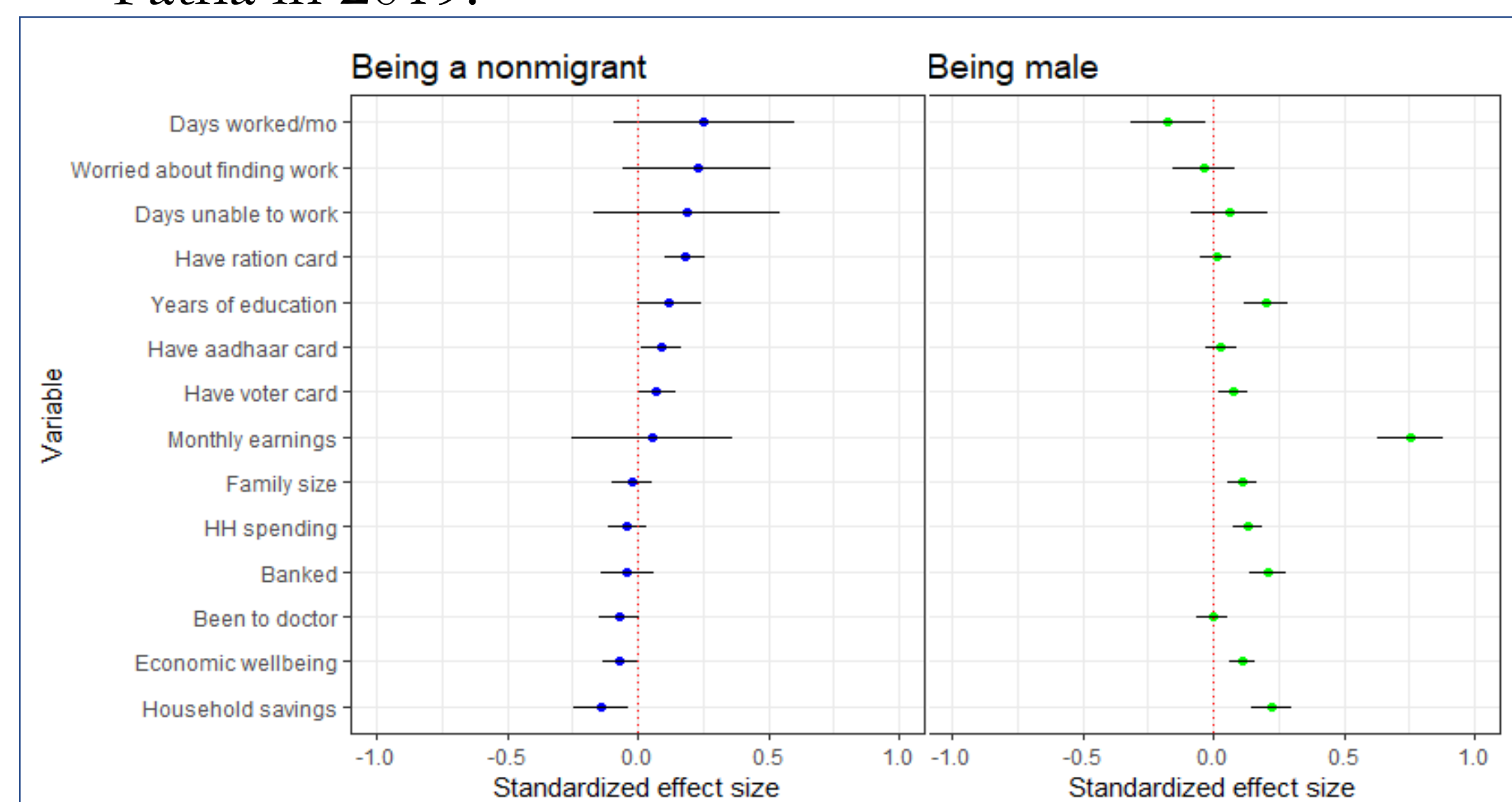
## Research Questions

- How do Indian slum residents access employment opportunities?
- How do these opportunities differ by birthplace & gender?
- What can policymakers learn about employment needs to target job opportunities in slums?

## Data and Methods

**This mixed-methods study combined a large household survey with qualitative interviews.**

- Survey (N=6177) in Bangalore, Jaipur, and Patna in 2015-2016. Sampled households represent the range of conditions across 124 slums identified with satellite imagery & admin data.
- Qualitative interviews and observation in 10 slums in Patna in 2019.



## Key Findings

- **Many slumdweller have resided in the destination city for years or decades – not merely as a seasonal or transit point.** On average, Patna slumdweller have remained for 33 years.
- **Slum location is a key predictor of employment.** Within the Patna urban core, trashpickers live adjacent to scrap metal sites, informal office aides live near government offices, and washerpeople live near government housing.
- **Slum residents specialize – and trust matters.** Many slumdweller maintain relationships with potential casual employers for years. E.g. appliance couriers – paid per delivery – work consistently for the same shops.
- **Migration status is a weak predictor of wellbeing.** Migrants are less likely to access government services, are less educated, and yet have more savings. Other indicators are mixed.
- **Gender strongly predicts earnings, but is only weakly associated with other wellbeing indicators.**

Data source: Rains, E., Krishna, A., & Wibbels, E. (2018). Combining satellite and survey data to study Indian slums: evidence on the range of conditions and implications for urban policy. Environment and Urbanization.

Contact: [harlan.downstepper@duke.edu](mailto:harlan.downstepper@duke.edu)