



Working Paper

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Keep in touch (with the natal family): Evidence from (ever) married women in India

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Abstract: In the current study, we plan to see whether there exists any association between frequency of speaking to natal family members post marriage (high and low frequency) and women's health status, autonomy and freedom of movement at the matrimonial home. For this purpose, we use the 2011-12 wave of the India Human Development Survey. We observe health outcomes (namely self-reported health and probability of being underweight) to be adverse for women who speak less frequently with their natal family members (relative to those who spoke more often). Lesser autonomy is observed among women who are less connected with their natal family than those who are highly connected with their natal family. Freedom of movement is also found to be lower among women who speak less frequently with their natal family members.

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