

## ABSTRACT

“International migration has come here to stay”. A descriptive case study of 20 women and men (both married and widowed), between 55-80 years, from Kheda-Anand village of Gujarat, India, whose children have migrated abroad, puts together on NRI village profile before looking at the impact felt on the support system, status, perceptions and feelings of elders after their children’s migration. It takes off from the study of Burholt, Wenger, Biswas, Dave, Mallya, Sodhi and Shah (2003) in this area. The triangulation of the survey approach, the interpretative life histories as well as the protocols of a case study approach validate the findings. Results show that the elders enjoy better infrastructure and lifestyle specially due to foreign remittances, gifts and products sent by children. Their own exposure to foreign countries and constant communication with their children, promote their status in the village, so that people look up to them for potential migration abroad. They do not feel the impact on their support system as it is a ‘family dependent and locally integrated’ network (Wenger, 1994). Repeated visits abroad helps promote a new mental framework, which aids them in adjusting to ‘modern’ life abroad, despite holding old cultural values.