

# Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



## Karnataka

Azim Premji University along with the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and Gauri Media Trust conducted a detailed phone survey of 861 respondents to gauge the impact of the COVID19 lockdown on employment, livelihoods, and access to government relief schemes.

The respondents were selected through a purposive sampling method to ensure diversity in location and type of work done. The sample is not representative of the state.

Respondents across more than 25 districts in the state were interviewed.

The data presented here was collected between 15th April, 2020 and 15th May, 2020. This brief is part of a series of state-level briefs prepared based on the survey findings. A dashboard with detailed information is available at [cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in](http://cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in)



## Key Findings

**72%**

reported that they had **lost their employment**.

**67%**

**fall in average earnings** of casual workers and self-employed non agricultural workers.

**6 in 10**

households were **without enough money** to buy even a **week's worth** of essentials.

**8 in 10**

households reported **consuming less food** than before.

**74%**

of vulnerable households **received ration**.

**68%**

of vulnerable households received **no cash transfer**.

### **Relief measures announced**

Relief measure information was sent out to survey respondents via text messages.

#### **Central Level**

- Between April to June 2020, each PHH and AAY family to get **free of cost 5 kg food grains per person per month and 1 kg of dal per family per month**. This is in **addition to regular ration** which they will continue to get.
- Women Jan Dhan account holders to get **₹500 per month** between April to June, 2020.
- **First instalment of PM-KISAN (₹2000)** to be paid during 1st week of April.

#### **State Level**

- **Ration for two months free of cost** for all beneficiaries of the PDS
- MGNREGA workers to be **paid for next two months in one go**.
- Construction workers under BoCW will get **₹1500**.
- **Loan waivers for street vendors & small traders** under the Badavara Bandhu scheme.
- Pensioners to receive **advance payment of pension for two months**.
- **Home delivery of food to children** under anganwadi care.
- Excess **milk** from KMF to be **distributed in slum areas**.

Source : [covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures](https://covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures)



## **Recommendations**

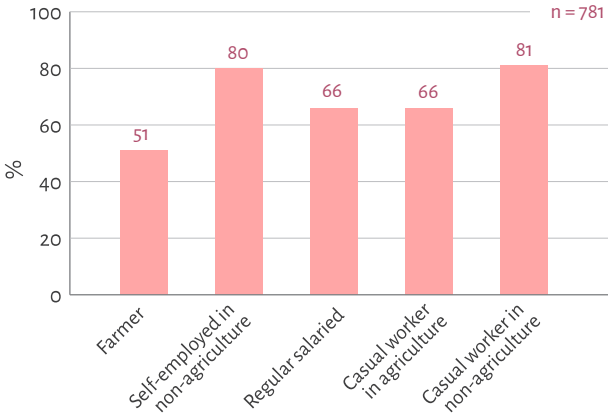
- **Universalise PDS** to expand its reach and provide the promised expanded rations for **at least the next six months**.
- Give **cash transfers equal to at least ₹7000 per month** for two months.
- Use **information from MGNREGA, PM Ujjwala, PDS and local registrations** to expand the reach of cash transfers.
- Urgent need to focus on **programmes for the urban poor**.
- Over the medium term, proactive steps like **expansion of MGNREGA, introduction of urban employment guarantee, and investment in universal basic services** are needed.



## Impact on livelihoods

This section deals with the impact that the lockdown has had on work and earnings. We measured levels of employment and income since the lockdown was imposed, and compared them to the situation prevailing in February.

*Workers who lost employment by activity status reported in February (%)*



**72%** reported that they had **lost their employment** during the lockdown.

**Urban Karnataka** has been more severely affected with **3 out of 4 respondents having lost their employment.**

**Non-agricultural casual workers and self employed** in non agriculture were the worst hit with **8 in 10 losing their jobs.**

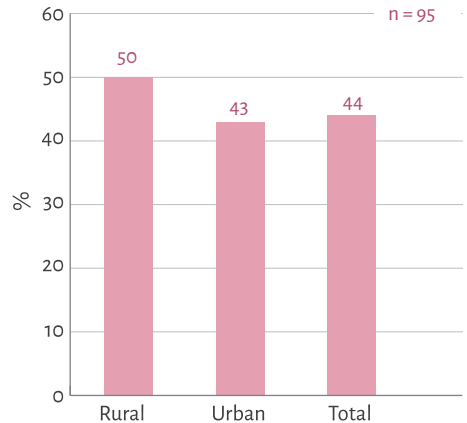
**Fall in average weekly earnings** of casual workers and self employed non agricultural workers was **67%.**

**44% of salaried wage workers** reported that they had **not been paid their salaries or they had received reduced salaries** during the lockdown.

*"The government should take the responsibility of each and every person. Workers need to feed themselves. The government is not thinking about this. Daily wage workers are facing the hardship. Relief work should be done keeping in mind the last person of society."*

(Male, 35, Self-Employed)

*Wage workers who received reduced or no salary (%)*

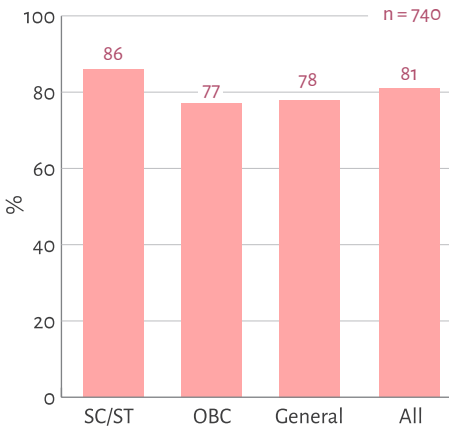




## Impact on households

This section looks at how households were faring under the lockdown particularly with respect to food intake and access to savings and credit.

*Share of households consuming less food than before by social group (%)*



**8 in 10 households** reported **consuming less food than before** during the lockdown. Both rural (**76%**) and urban (**83%**) areas report this shortage.

**86% of SC/ST households** reported **reduced intake of food**.

*"It's becoming difficult to survive. We have two children and are unable to provide them three meals a day. Often we go hungry or just eat one meal so that the rest can go to them. There is no help from the government."*

(Female, 31, Casual Worker)

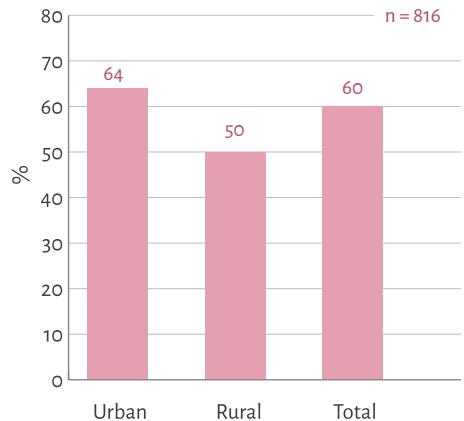
**6 in 10 households** were **without enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials**, the situation being worse off in **urban households (64%)**.

Compared to **general (49%)** and **OBC (53%)** households, a higher number of **SC/ST households (63%)** were **without enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essential items**.

**Half of all households** had to take a loan as a result of this lockdown.

In urban areas, **9 in 10 households** said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.

*Households without enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials (%)*

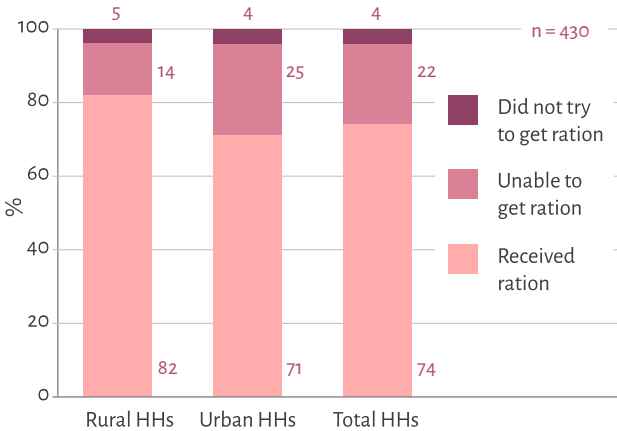




## Access to relief measures

This section studies the reach and impact of relief measures announced by the Government. We focus on availability of food rations, cash transfers to beneficiaries and benefits accruing to vulnerable households.

### Vulnerable households that received ration during the lockdown (%)



**59% of migrant workers** working in urban areas **did not have a ration card** on them.

**7 in 10 vulnerable households** in urban areas **received ration** during the lockdown.

**75% of vulnerable households** did **not have a Jan Dhan account**, only **55% of account holders** received a cash transfer.

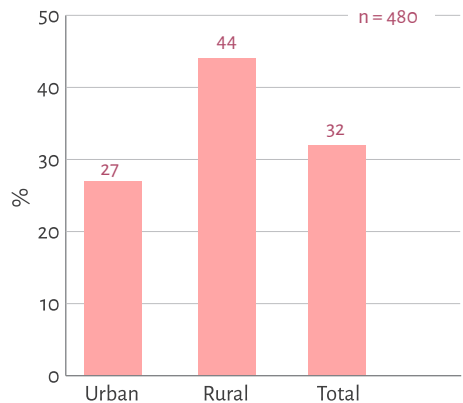
Only **32% of vulnerable households** reported as having received **at least one cash transfer**.

**Less than 3 in 10 vulnerable households** located in urban areas received **at least one cash transfer**.

*"Government is neither giving us jobs nor any support money. Our MGNREGA wages are due and the government has not even paid that yet."*

(Female, 28, Casual Worker)

### Vulnerable households who received at least one cash transfer (%)





## Survey Coverage

This section studies the reach and impact of relief measures announced by the Government. We focus on availability of food rations, cash transfers to beneficiaries and benefits accruing to vulnerable households.

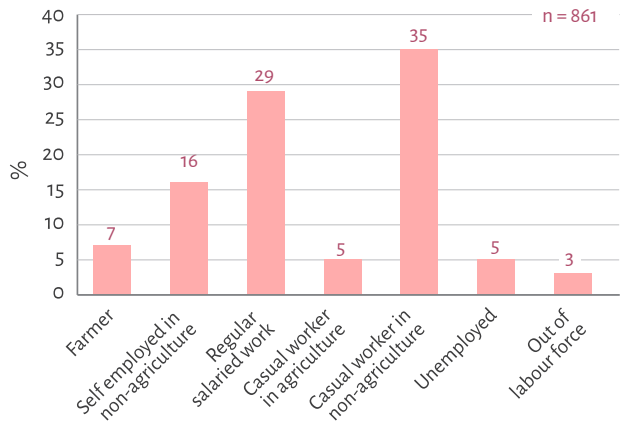
Around **68%** of our respondents worked in **urban areas**.

**67%** of our respondents were **males**, **32%** were **females** and **1%** were **transgender**.

**Hindus** comprised **88%** of our respondents, followed by **Muslims** at **9%**.

**Migrants** constituted **25%** of our sample, most of whom were located in **urban areas**.

*Share of Respondents by Activity Status in February (%)*



## Results from other surveys happening in the state

- According to the Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN) study, **62% of respondents from Karnataka did not receive dry ration** from the Government.
- The rapid assessment survey conducted by the National Law School, Bengaluru across **5 districts of Karnataka found that the distribution of dry ration is highly irregular** among these districts.
- COVID-19 impact studies conducted by Dvara research, the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) and Indus Action also **feature Karnataka in their sample drawn** from a number of states.

For a compilation of the various Covid-19 surveys and studies conducted across the country please visit : [cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/covid19-analysis-of-impact-and-relief-measures/#other\\_surveys](https://cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/covid19-analysis-of-impact-and-relief-measures/#other_surveys)