
Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Delhi (Urban)

Azim Premji University along with the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) conducted a detailed phone survey of 240 respondents in New Delhi to gauge the impact of the COVID-19 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.

The data presented here was collected between 17th April, 2020 and 14th 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



Key Findings

73%

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

63%

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

3 in 4

did not have **enough money** to buy even a **week's worth** of essentials.

9 in 10

reported **consuming less food** than before.

32%

of vulnerable households **received ration**.

73%

vulnerable households received no **cash transfer**.

Relief measures announced

Relief measure information was sent out to survey respondents via SMS.

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 **Rs 500 per month** between April to June, 2020.
- * **First instalment of PM-KISAN (Rs 2000)** to be paid during 1st week of April.

State Level

- * State government to give **compensation of Rs 1 crore** to the families of frontline workers if these workers die while fighting to stem the spread of COVID-19.
- * **Non ration card holders to get free ration (5kg)** from fair-price shops in Delhi starting from the second week of April. People can register for this here ration.jantasamvad.org/ration/
- * After registration they will receive an e-coupon to take to the distribution centre.
- * **Registered construction workers** to get **one time amount of Rs 5000**.
- * **Transport service providers** like drivers of autos, e-rickshaws, RTVs and gamin seva to get **one time amount of Rs 5000**.

Source : covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures



Recommendations

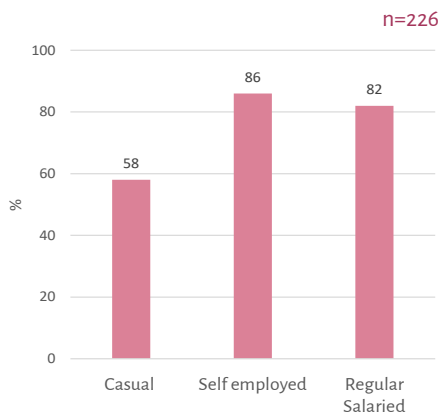
- * **Universalise PDS** to expand its reach and provide the promised expanded rations for at least the **next six months**.
- * Give **cash transfers equal to at least Rs 7000** per month for two months.
- * Use **information from MGNREGA, PM Ujjwala, PDS and local registrations** to expand the reach 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.

Figure 1: Workers who lost employment by activity status reported in February (%)



73% reported that they had **lost their employment**.

The **self employed** were the worst hit with **86% losing their jobs**.

Salaried workers (**82%**) were not far behind.

63% was the **fall** in average weekly earnings of casual workers and self employed non agricultural workers.

A larger share of females reported a loss in employment.

"This crisis needs to end soon. We come to cities to earn money and if there is no work available, it becomes difficult to support our families. I have not been able to go back home because of this lockdown and my family is going through financial hardships. Casual labourers get work for a maximum of 20-22 days and we need to run two households in that amount. There is no work available back in the village which is why I am forced to travel to the city."

(Male, 35, Casual Worker)

Figure 2: Workers who lost employment by sex (%)

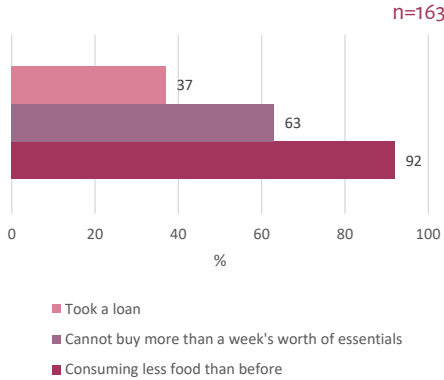




Impact on households

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

Figure 3: Impact on migrant households due to the lockdown (%)



92% of migrant workers were **consuming less food** than before.

3 out of 4 households did not have enough money to buy even a **week's worth of essentials**.

37% of the households **had to take a loan** as a result of this lockdown.

96% households said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.



Access to relief measures

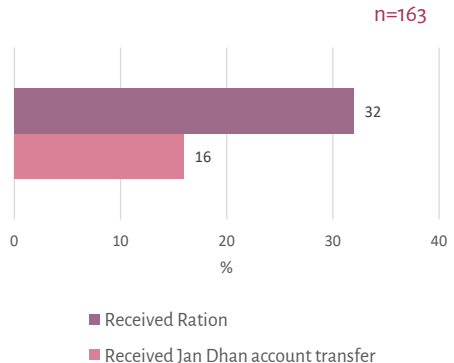
This section studies the reach and impact of relief measures announced by the Government. We focus on availability of food rations, cash transfers to beneficiaries and benefits accruing to vulnerable households.

More than half of the vulnerable households **did not get ration** whereas **70%** of **migrant households did not get ration**.

78% of vulnerable households **did not have a Jan Dhan account** and **74%** of those who **had an account received a cash transfer**.

73% of vulnerable households **did not receive any cash transfer**.

Figure 4: Vulnerable households who received ration or Jan Dhan transfer (%)





Survey Coverage

47% of the respondents were males, **45% were females** and 8% were transgenders.

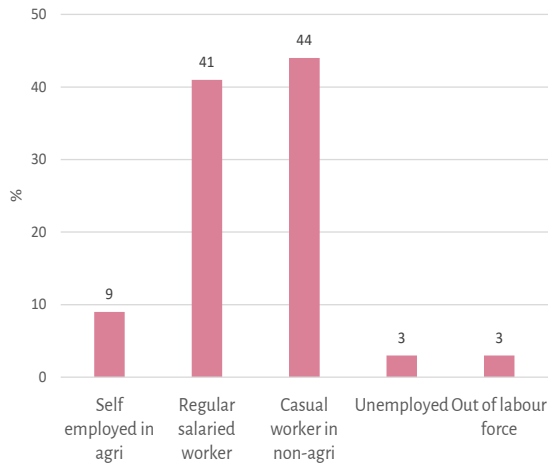
Hindus comprised 81% of respondents and **Muslims 9%** .

63% were from the **SC/ST community**.

82% of the households were vulnerable i.e. they earned less than Rs 10,000 in February.

Migrants constituted **53%** of the sample.

Figure 5: Share of respondents by activity status in February (%)



Results from other surveys happening in the state

- * According to a study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research; **29.3% of the households** experienced shortages in **supplies of food, cooking fuel and medicine**.
- * A telephonic survey conducted by the CPI(M)-CITU found that migrant workers in Delhi were facing a major food crisis, with a **majority of the respondents in near starvation levels**, without access to rice, wheat, pulses and oil.
- * As per a study by Farzana Afridi, Amrita Dhillon and Sanchari Roy, 85% of the respondents who were employed before the lockdown have not earned any income from their main occupation **while over half (53%)** of those who were employed before 24 March **did not receive** their full salary for the month of March.
- * COVID-19 impact studies conducted by Indus Action, IIT-Delhi, and Jan Sahas, also feature Delhi 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-impactand-relief-measures/#other_surveys

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