
Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Gujarat

Azim Premji University along with SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) conducted a detailed phone survey of 315 respondents 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.

Respondents across 13 districts in the state were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 15th April, 2020 and 18th May, 2020. This is part of a series of state-level briefs based on the survey results. A dashboard with detailed information is available at cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in



Key Findings

71%

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

68%

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

82%

reported **consuming less food** than before.

85%

vulnerable households **received ration**.

59%

of vulnerable households **did not receive any 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

- * Each member of AAY & PHH family gets **3.5 kg wheat, 1.5 kg rice for free** in April
- * Each AAY & PHH family gets **1 kg dal, 1 kg sugar and 1 kg salt for free** in April
- * Each APL-1 family gets **10 kg wheat, 3 kg rice, one kg pulses and one kg sugar for free**
- * In April, **Rs 1,000** to be transferred to each family having ration card under NFSA
- * Migrant workers **without ration cards** to be given **food grains free of cost** (Annabrahma Yojna)
- * **Free meals** delivered to the **elderly living alone in metropolitan cities** (Vadil Vandana scheme).

Source : covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures



Recommendations

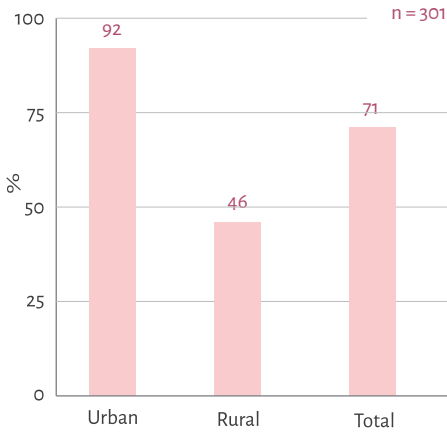
- * **Universalise PDS** to expand its reach and provide the promised expanded rations for **at least the next six months**.
- * Give **cash transfers equal to at least Rs 7000 per month** for two months.
- * Use **information from MGNREGA, PM Ujjwala, PDS and local registrations** to expand the reach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



71% reported that they had **lost their employment**.

Urban Gujarat has been more severely affected with **more than 9 in 10** respondents having **lost their employment**.

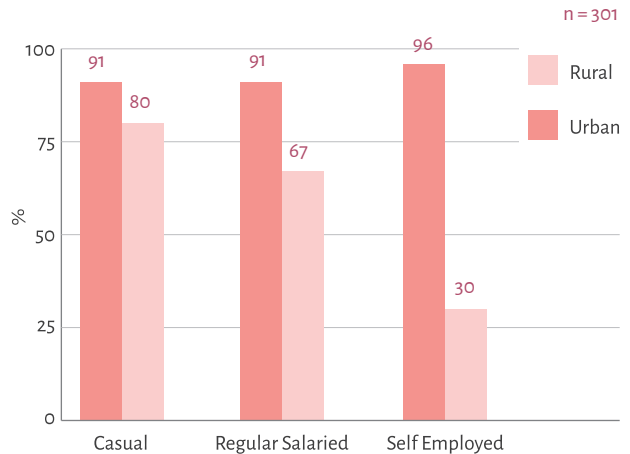
Regular salaried workers in urban areas were the worst hit with **96%** losing their jobs.

Nearly **9 in 10 farmers** reported that they were **unable to sell their produce at full prices**.

"Around 50-60 families in the village neither have any employment nor any provision of food. We are not able to transport the grains outside the village. There is no work in the village. Embroidery work has also stopped."

(Female, 42, Self Employed)

Figure 2: Workers who lost their employment by activity status in February (%)

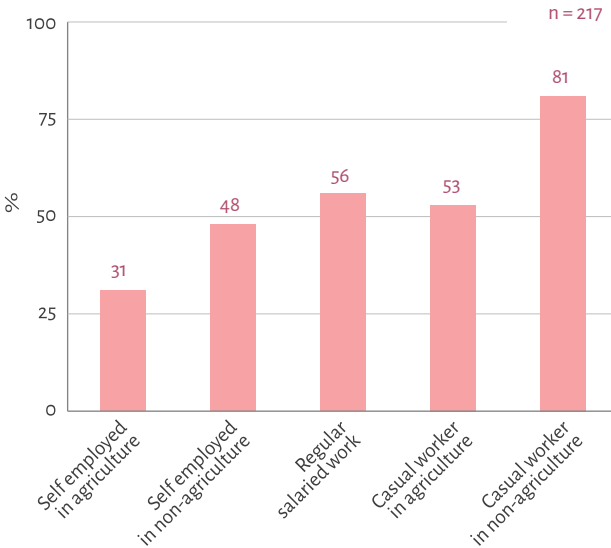




Impact on households

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: Share of households without enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essentials by main source of household income (%)



More than 8 in 10 households reported **consuming less food than before** during the lockdown.

Urban households have been particularly affected with **95% consuming less food than before**.

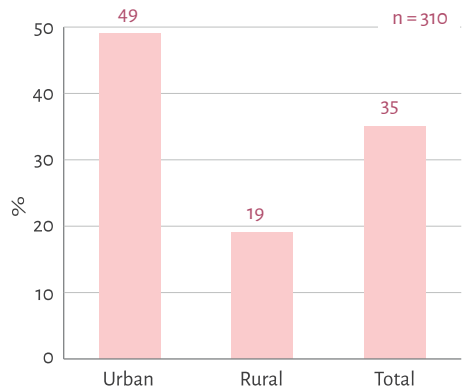
Nearly **7 in 10 households** did **not have enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials**, the situation being worse off in **urban households (89%)**.

More than 8 in 10 households which reported casual wage earnings in non-agriculture as their main source of income were **without enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essential items**.

Nearly half of the urban households had to **take a loan** as a result of this lockdown.

In urban areas, 98% households said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.

Figure 4: Households who had to take a loan for covid related expenses (%)

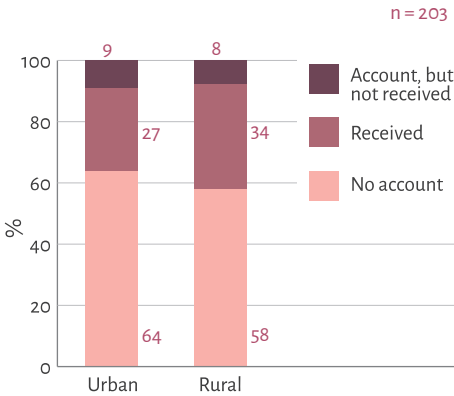




Access to relief measures

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.

Figure 5: Share of vulnerable households who received ration during the lockdown (%)



85% of vulnerable households **received ration**.

18% of vulnerable households in **urban areas** were **unable to get ration**.

More than 6 in 10 vulnerable households **did not have a Jan Dhan account**, but **78%** of those who did **have a Jan Dhan account received a cash transfer**.

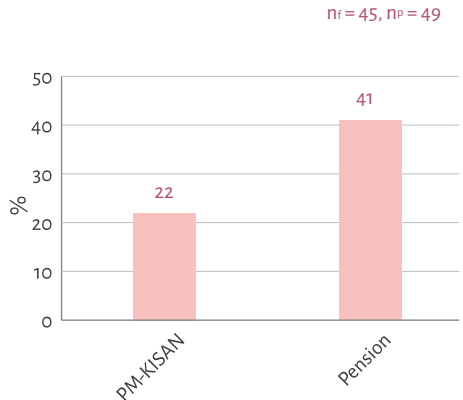
66% of vulnerable households located in **urban areas did not receive any cash transfer**, compared to **51%** of households in **rural areas**.

Only **22%** of farmers **received a PM-KISAN transfer**.

"Public representatives need to raise awareness amongst the people and help them out. It should be ensured that people suffering from other diseases are also provided medical care."

(Male, 26, Regular Salaried Worker)

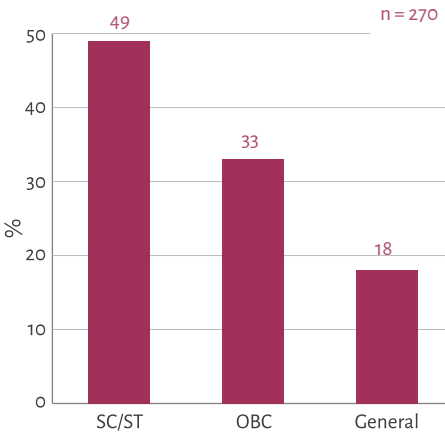
Figure 6: Beneficiaries of PM-KISAN / Pension scheme who received cash transfer





Survey Coverage

Figure 7: Share of respondents by caste (%)



54% of the respondents worked in **urban areas**.

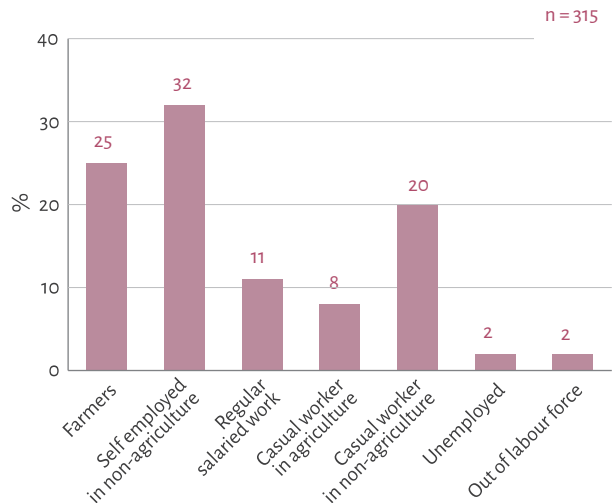
93% respondents were **females** and 7% were **males**.

Hindus comprised 88% of the respondents and **Muslims** 11%.

Nearly half (49%) of the respondents hailed from the **SC/ST community**.

87% of the households were vulnerable i.e. they **earned less than Rs 10,000 in February**.

Figure 8: Share of respondents by activity status in February (%)



"Because of the lockdown, farmers are not getting the right prices for their produce."

(Female, 45, Self Employed)



Results from other surveys happening in the state

- * An IIM-Ahmedabad study led by Professor Ankur Sarin found that **44% of the economically vulnerable** households surveyed **will run out of food within a week**. The same study noted that **less than 6%** of households were **aware of a bank transfer** made by the government to their accounts.
- * The survey by Indus Action informs us that **1/3rd** of respondents were **rendered unemployed post the lockdown**.
- * COVID-19 impact studies conducted by Dvara research and a joint survey by Transform Rural India Foundation, Vikasanvesh Foundation and Sambodhi also **feature Gujarat 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