
Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Jharkhand (Rural)

Azim Premji University along with Pradan conducted a detailed phone survey of 458 respondents¹ 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 11 districts in the state were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 30th April, 2020 and 13th 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

¹ We interviewed a small number of urban households in Jharkhand which are not part of this analysis.



Key Findings

58%

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

65%

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

27%

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

77%

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

8 in 10

vulnerable households **received ration**.

46%

of vulnerable households reported as having received **at least one 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

- * In April, PHH family to get 10kg grains per family member at the rate of **Rs 1 per kg.**
- * In May, PHH family to receive **10 kg grains** per family member **free of cost.**
- * In June, PHH family to get 5kg grains per family member free of cost and the other 5kg grains per member at **Rs 1 per kg.**
- * In April, AAY family to receive in total 70kg grains at **Rs 1 per kg.**
- * In May, AAY family to receive 10kg grains per family member free of cost.
- * In June, AAY family to receive 35kg grains per card at **Rs 1 per kg** and 5 kg grains per member free of cost.
- * Families whose ration card applications are pending to get 10kg of rice per family at the rate of **Rs 1 per kg.**
- * Dal Bhat kendras to be opened at the thana level in all districts of the state where each meal costs **Rs 5** per person
- * Anganwadi centres to **deliver rations to the children at their homes.**
- * **Pension** for March and April to be given **in advance.**

Source : covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures



Recommendations

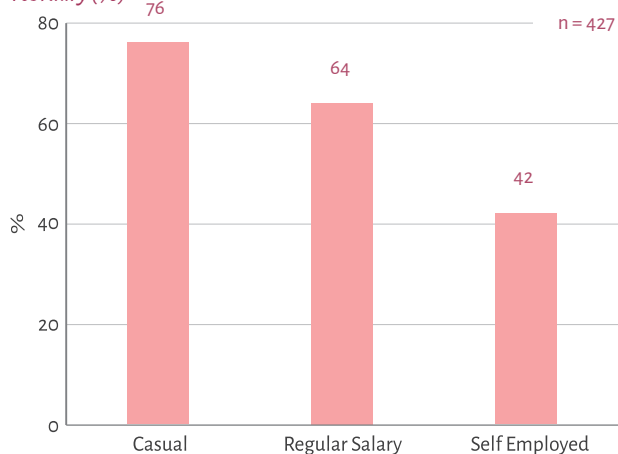
- * **Universalise PDS** to expand its reach and provide the promised expanded rations for **at least the next six months.**
- * Give **cash transfers equal to at least Rs 7000 per month** for two months.
- * Use **information from MGNREGA, PM Ujjwala, PDS and local registrations** to expand the reach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



58% reported that they had **lost their employment** during the lockdown.

Casual wage workers were the worst hit with **76% losing their jobs**.

89% of farmers reported that they were **unable to sell their produce at full prices**.

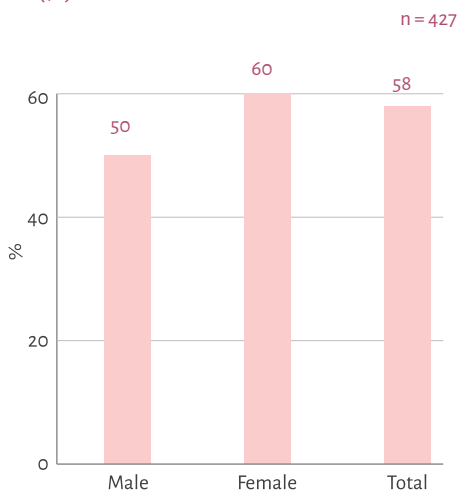
42% of salaried wage workers reported that they had **not been paid their salaries or they had received reduced salaries** during the lockdown.

Fall in average weekly earnings of casual workers and self employed non agricultural workers was **65%**.

"Owing to the lockdown, all work has stopped. We are getting rice but we need money to purchase oil, soap etc. this being the reason I want to take up MGNREGA work. There is no point in engaging in cash crop cultivation at the moment because the produce is not being sold."

(Female, 32, Casual Worker)

Figure 2: Wage workers who lost their employment by sex (%)

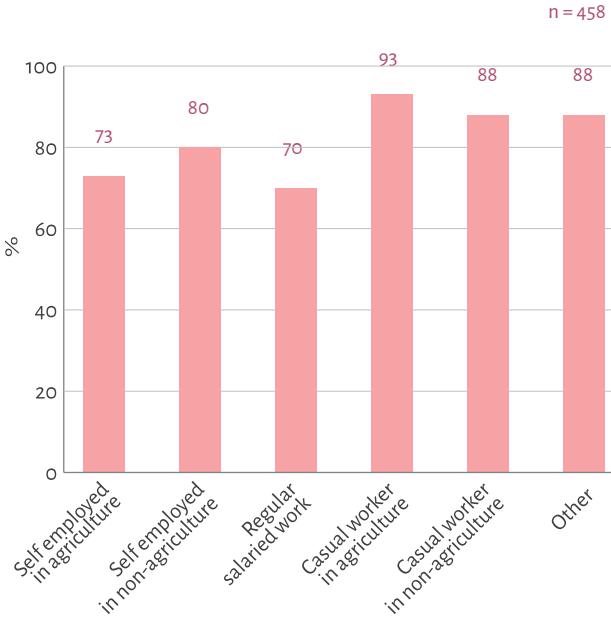




Impact on households

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: Share of households consuming less food than before by activity status in February (%)



77% of households reported consuming less food than before during the lockdown.

93% of agricultural wage workers reported reduced intake of food.

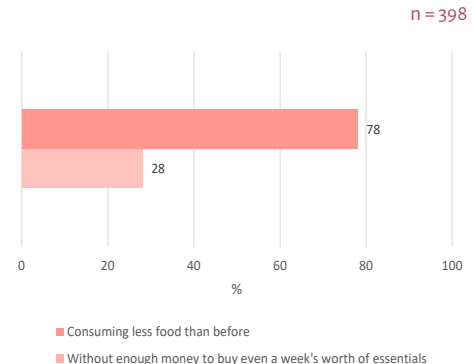
27% of households were without enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials

Compared to **general (11%) and OBC (22%)** households, a relatively higher number of **SC/ST households (29%)** were without enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essential items.

More than one-fifth of all households had to take a loan as a result of this lockdown

8 in 10 households said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.

Figure 4: State of vulnerable households with respect to food intake and savings (%)

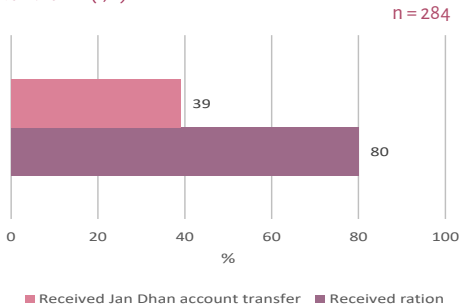




Access to relief measures

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 and Jan Dhan account transfer during the lockdown (%)



8 in 10 vulnerable households received ration during the lockdown.

56% of vulnerable households did not have a Jan Dhan account, but 90% of those who did have a Jan Dhan account received a cash transfer

46% of vulnerable households reported as having **received at least one cash transfer.**

Only **16% of farmers received a PM-KISAN transfer.**

"I want to work under MGNREGA but there is no work available. Last year's wages are still pending."

(Female, 40, Casual Worker)



Survey Coverage

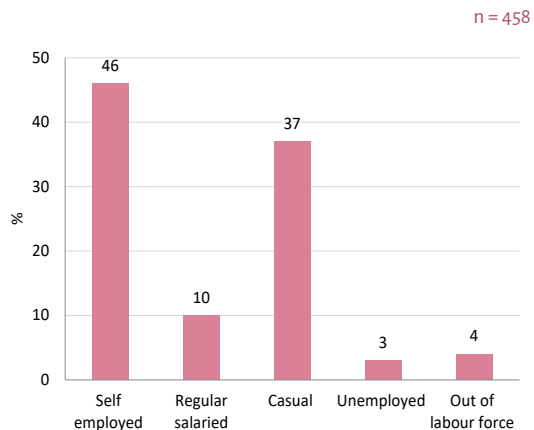
75% of our respondents were **females** and **25%** were **males**.

Hindus comprised **61%** of our respondents, followed by **Christians** at **12%** and **Muslims** at **3%**

90% of the households were **vulnerable** i.e. they **earned less than Rs 10,000 in February**.

57% respondents were **scheduled tribes**, and **11%** were **scheduled castes**

Figure 6: Share of respondents by activity status in February (%)





Results from other surveys happening in the state

- * The study conducted by the Right to Food Campaign found that **very few of the districts have received the 10kg of foodgrain** promised by the Chief Minister.
- * The survey conducted by the Society for Social and Economic Research in the **village of Hechal** found that **none of the farmers are able to sell any of their produce** and are **incurring huge losses**.
- * COVID-19 impact studies conducted by IIT-Delhi (Gram Vaani), Road Scholarz and Centre for Policy Research also **feature Jharkhand 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