

Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Odisha

Azim Premji University along with the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and Pradan conducted a detailed phone survey of 503 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 14 districts in the state were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 22nd April, 2020 and 15th 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

67%

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

80%

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

43%

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

82%

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

89%

vulnerable households **received ration**.

25%

of vulnerable households **did not receive even a single 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 ration card holding family to get one time payment of **Rs 1000**.
- * State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) beneficiaries eligible for an additional **5 kg of rice free of cost per person per month** for three months.
- * SFSS beneficiaries to get **1kg of milled arhar dal free of cost per family per month** for three months.
- * **An insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs for families** of frontline workers in case of death.
- * Registered construction workers to get one time payment of **Rs 1500**.
- * Registered street vendors to get one time payment of **Rs 1500**.
- * Take-home **rations to be delivered to the homes** of Anganwadi beneficiaries.

Source : covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/relief-measures



Recommendations

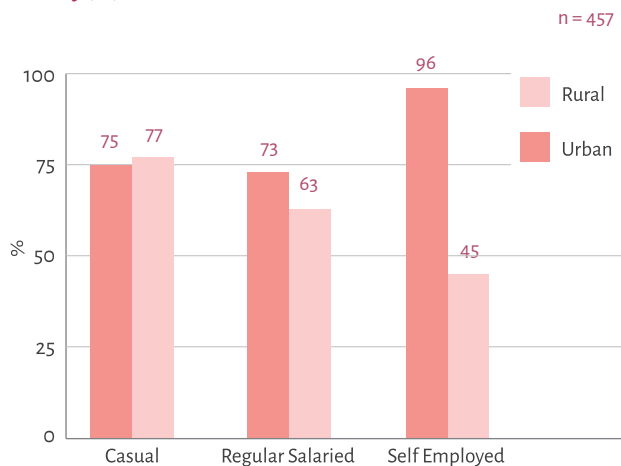
- * **Universalise PDS** to expand its reach and provide the promised expanded rations for **at least the next six months**.
- * Give **cash transfers equal to at least Rs 7000 per month** for two months.
- * Use **information from MGNREGA, PM Ujjwala, PDS and local registrations** to expand the reach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



Urban Odisha has been more severely affected with **77%** respondents having **lost their employment**.

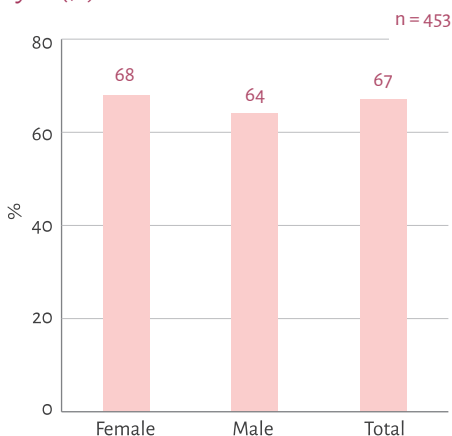
Self-employed workers in urban areas were the worst hit with **96% losing their jobs**.

Fall in average weekly earnings of casual workers and self employed non-agricultural workers was **80%**.

33% of salaried wage workers reported that they had **not been paid their salaries or they had received reduced salaries** during the lockdown.

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

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

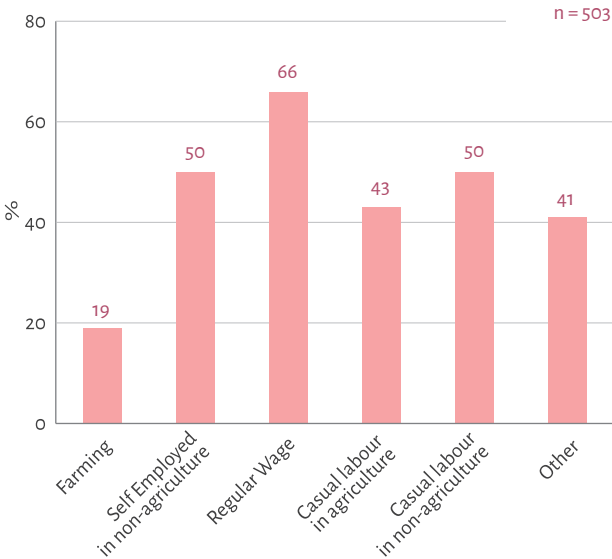




Impact on households

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



Urban households have been particularly affected with **92% consuming less food than before**.

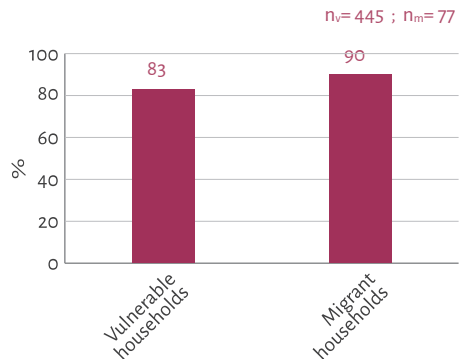
9 out of 10 migrants reported **reduced intake of food**.

43% of the households **did not have enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials**, the situation being worse off in **urban households (66%)**.

Two-thirds of households which reported regular salaried earnings as their main source of income **did not have enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essential items**.

87% of the households said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.

Figure 4: Share of households consuming less food than before (%)

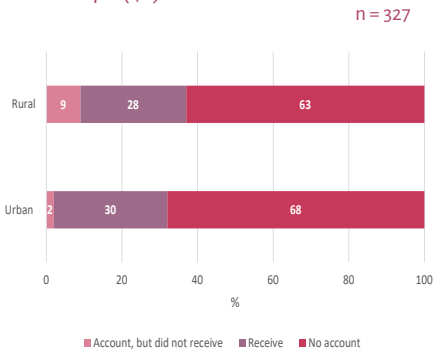




Access to relief measures

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: Vulnerable households who received a Jan Dhan transfer (%)



Nearly **9 in 10** vulnerable households **received ration**.

15% of vulnerable households in **urban areas** were **unable to get ration**.

65% of vulnerable households **did not have a Jan Dhan account**, but **83%** 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**.

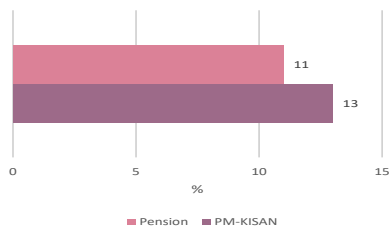
25% of vulnerable households **did not receive even a single cash transfer**.

36% of vulnerable households located in **urban areas did not receive even a single cash transfer**, compared to **17%** of households in **rural areas**.

Only **13%** of farmers received a **PM-KISAN transfer**.

Figure 6: Received cash transfer (%)

n_f = 156, n_p = 178



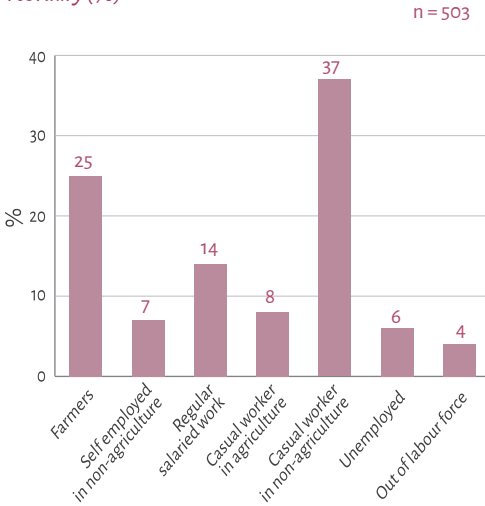
"We're not able to sell our produce. We're running out of stock at home. Rice isn't our only need."

(Male, 50, Unpaid Helper)



Survey Coverage

Figure 7: Share of respondents by activity status in February (%)



Around **60%** of the respondents worked in **rural areas**.

28% of the respondents were **males**, **71%** were **females** and **1%** were **transgenders**

Hindus comprised **92%** the respondents, **Christians 6%** and **Muslims 1%**.

Migrants constituted **15%** of the sample, most of whom were located in **urban areas**.

Nearly **60%** of the respondents hailed from the **SC/ST** community.

91% of the sample households were vulnerable i.e. they **earned less than Rs 10,000 in February**



Results from other surveys happening in the state

- * Respondents of a survey conducted by SEWA Bharat noted that **the state government was very proactive in distributing ration**, as a result of which **access was good**.
- * COVID-19 impact studies conducted by Dalberg, Road Scholarz group and a joint survey by Transform Rural India Foundation, Vikasanvesh Foundation and Sambodhi also **feature Odisha 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