
Azim Premji University COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Rajasthan

Azim Premji University along with Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and VAAGDHARA conducted a detailed phone survey of 484 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 more than 11 districts in the state were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 14th April, 2020 and 20th 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

88%

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

68%

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

77%

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

63%

vulnerable households **received ration**.

4 in 10

of 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

- * BPL, State BPL and AAY families to be given cash transfer in two instalments - first **Rs 1000** and the second **Rs 1500**.
- * Registered construction workers and street workers who don't fall in the above categories will also get the **two cash transfer instalments**.
- * BPL, State BPL and AAY families will be provided **June's quota of wheat free of cost**. This cost to be borne by state govt.
- * Anganwadi centres to **deliver rations** to the beneficiaries **at their homes**.
- * **Two months advance pension** to be given to state pensioners in April.
- * **Rs 1000** to be given to rickshaw pullers, destitute and needy families identified by district administration.
- * **60 lakh needy people** not covered under the NFSA will be given **10 kg of wheat per person**.
- * A small kit of **5 kg maize seeds (hybrid)** will be given **free of cost to tribal farmers**.
- * Each small and marginal farmer will be given a small kit of **1.5 kg millet seeds for free**.

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 their employment by activity status in February (%)



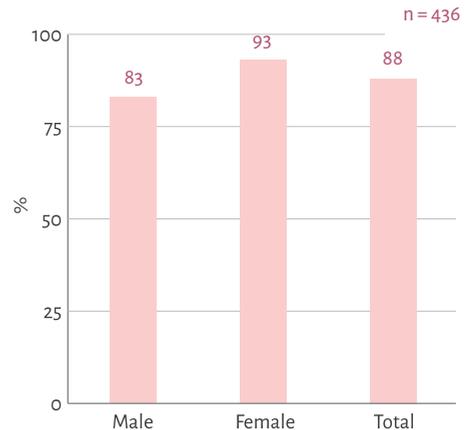
Urban Rajasthan has been more severely affected with **more than 9 in 10** respondents having **lost their employment**.

Casual workers in urban areas were the worst hit with **95%** **losing their jobs**.

68% of salaried wage workers working **had not been paid their salaries** or they had **received reduced salaries** during the lockdown.

Women were more severely impacted.

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



"The situation here in the village is very grim. We are not able to buy essentials. Owing to the lockdown, we are not able to travel to the city for work or essential commodities. Our savings are also drying up."

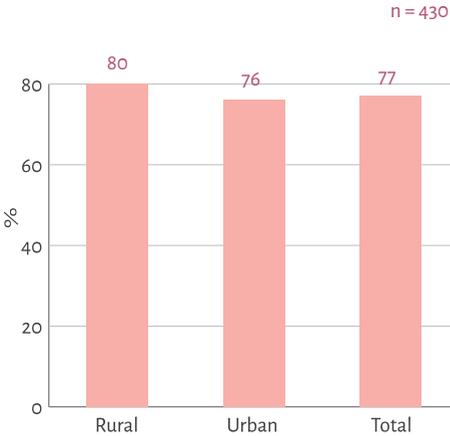
(Male, 37, Self Employed)



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 (%)



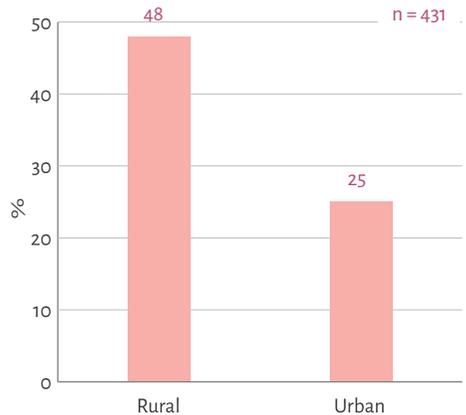
More than 3 in 4 households reported **consuming less food than before** during the lockdown.

63% of vulnerable households were **without enough money to buy more than a week's worth of essential items**.

44% of all households **had to take a loan** as a result of this lockdown.

In urban areas, 3 in 4 households said that they **cannot pay next month's rent**.

Figure 4: Share of households that had to take a loan to cover expenses (%)



"Arrangements for our food and water supply should have been made before imposing the lockdown. Labourers should also be given free ration."

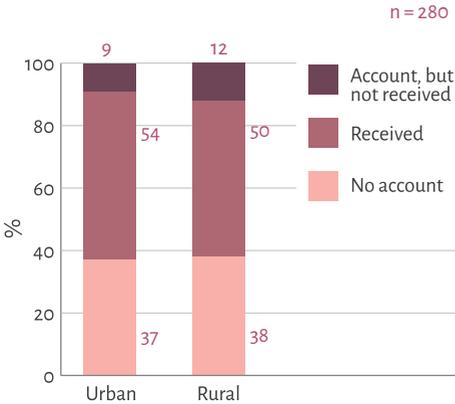
(Male, 35, Casual Worker)



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 (%)



30% of migrant workers working in **urban areas did not have a ration card** on them.

3 in 10 vulnerable households in **urban areas did not receive ration** during the lockdown.

37% of vulnerable households **did not have a Jan Dhan account**, **85%** of account holders **received a cash transfer**.

39% of vulnerable households located in **urban areas received no cash transfer**.

Figure 6: Share of vulnerable households who received ration (%)

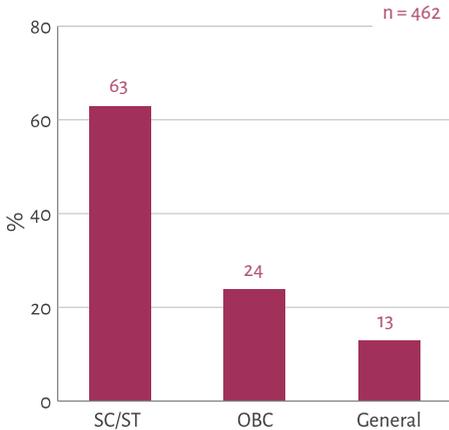


"The government is not listening to the poor. They should be delivering ration at home, but no one has even come to even check up on us. We are dying of hunger."
(Female, 35, Casual Worker)



Survey Coverage

Figure 7: Share of respondents by caste (%)



79% of respondents worked in **urban areas**.

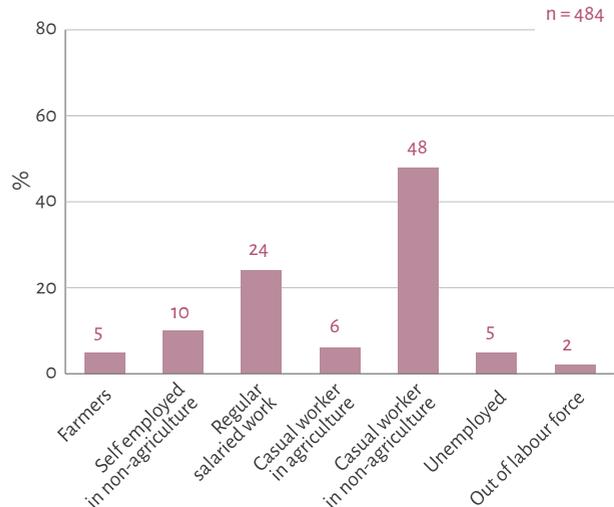
45% respondents were **males**, 52% were **females** and 3% were **transgenders**.

Hindus comprised 82% of the respondents and **Muslims** 17%.

Migrants constituted 15% of the sample, most of whom (71%) were **located in urban areas**.

84% 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 (%)





Results from other surveys happening in the state

- * According to a survey conducted by Dvara Research which interviewed MFI customers, **67%** of respondents noted **a loss in revenue**. **25%** of the households were **not eligible for any government schemes**.
- * COVID-19 impact studies conducted by Dalberg, Indus Action and SWAN also **feature Rajasthan 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