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# Azim Premji University

## COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



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### Migrant workers

Azim Premji University along with 10 civil society organizations conducted a detailed phone survey of 5000 respondents to gauge the impact of the COVID19 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 country or the states in which interviews were conducted.

Respondents across 12 major states of India were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 13th April 2020 and 20th May 2020. This brief is part of a series prepared based on the survey findings. A dashboard with detailed information is available at [cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in](http://cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in)



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### Key Findings

# 80%

migrant workers lost their employment during the lockdown.

# 74%

migrant worker households reduced their food intake.

# 31%

vulnerable migrant worker households did not receive ration.

# 5 in 10

migrant worker households were without enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials.

# 6 in 10

migrant worker households did not receive any cash transfers.

# 29%

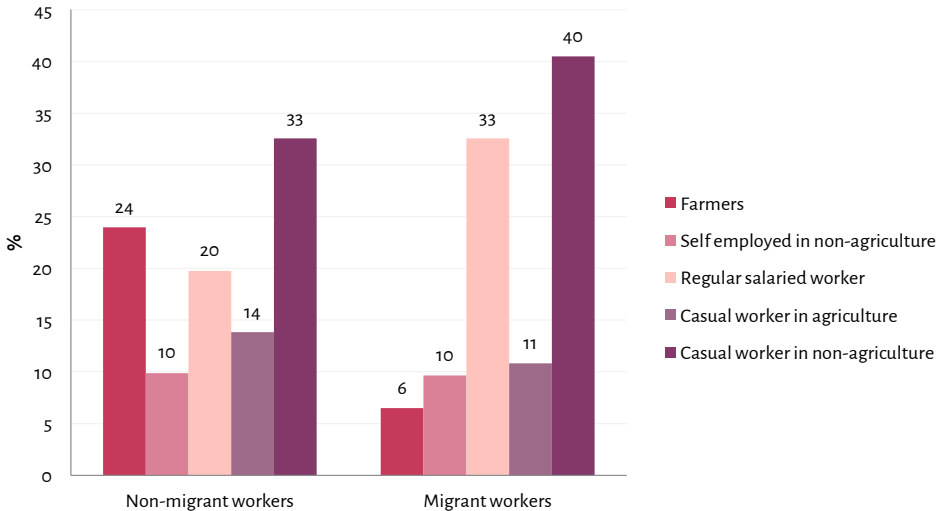
of urban migrant workers were stranded in their place of work.



## Profile of migrant workers

- \* We spoke to 755 migrant workers.
- \* Almost 6 out of 10 migrant workers (57 %) were intra-state migrant workers.
- \* Majority (65 %) worked in urban areas, and three-fourths were long-term migrant workers (working away from native district for more than a year).
- \* 60% of migrant workers were men.

Figure 1: Activity distribution of migrant workers vs non migrant workers (%)



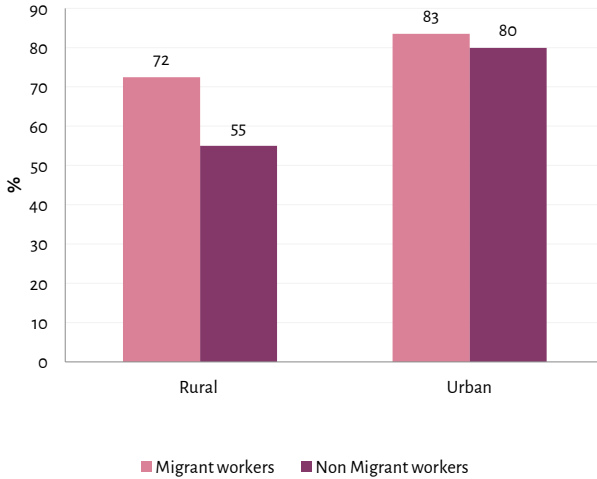
- \* 40% migrant workers were in casual wage work, and 33% had monthly wage employment.
- \* 7 out of 10 rural migrant workers were able to return home or were en-route.
- \* Nearly 5 out of 10 urban migrant workers reported not wanting to return to their native places.

*"The place is very crowded where cooked meal is provided, hence cannot get the benefit."*  
(Male, 60, Migrant farmer)



## Impact on livelihoods

Figure 2: Employment loss among migrant and non migrant workers by rural urban (%)



Migrant workers more likely to lose employment during lockdown.

Eight out of ten migrant workers lost employment compared to seven out of ten non-migrant workers.

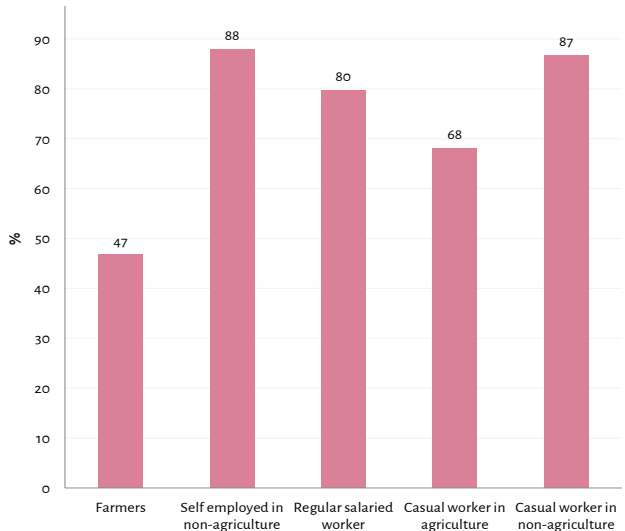
Employment loss highest among urban migrant workers (83%).

Non-agricultural casual migrant workers and self-employed migrant workers were the worst hit.

*"Has contacted all helplines, but hasn't received any ration or help...Finding it difficult to sustain as daily wage worker without work."*

(Male, 32, Migrant casual worker)

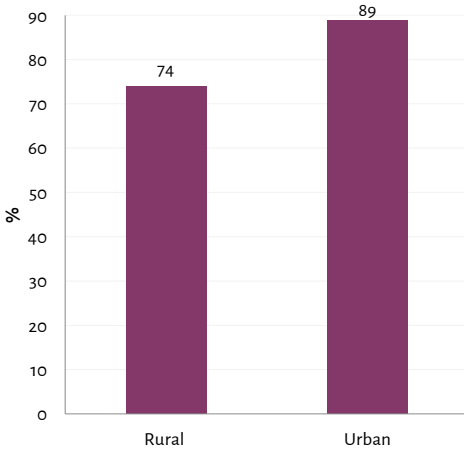
Figure 3: Employment loss among migrant and non migrant workers by activity types (%)





## Impact on households

Figure 4: Impact on food consumption of migrant and non migrant by rural urban (%)



8 out of 10 migrant households reported reducing food intake during the lockdown.

Urban migrant worker households more likely to reduce food intake compared to rural.

5 out of 10 migrant worker households had money for less than a week's worth of essentials, compared to 4 out of 10 non migrant workers.

3 out of 10 migrant workers reported resorting to loans during the lockdown.



## Access to relief measures

31% of migrant workers unable to access rations, compared to 15% of non-migrant workers.

Urban migrant workers less likely to receive rations.

Only 27% of migrant workers received Jan Dhan account transfer compared to 34% of non-migrant workers.

6 out 10 migrant households did not receive any cash transfers.

Figure 4: Status of ration by rural and urban (%)

