COVID-19 Research Results Brief # 3

AWARENESS OF AND RECEIVING SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN BIHAR, INDIA

BACKGROUND
- Economic hardships caused by the nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are reported across the country. Social protection measures have been announced by the state and central governments to ease these hardships.
- The key objectives of this research brief are to examine the awareness and the social protection measures received during COVID-19 lockdown and the socio-economic differentials in receiving these measures.

METHODS
- The sample households for the KAP surveys were drawn from an existing state-representative cohort study of adolescents and young adults under project UDAYA (www.projectudaya.in) in Bihar. However, it is noted that respondents who participated in the COVID-19 KAP surveys were better educated, wealthier and less likely to have belonged to disadvantaged castes and tribes (SC/ST), compared with those who did not. There were no differences in terms of rural-urban or religious distributions.
- 242 men and 552 women were interviewed between May 13–22, 2020. (See Table below for the profile of study participants).
- Data was also drawn from the survey of SHG leaders (N=179); more details can be found in the brief entitled Self help group: A potential pivot of Bihar’s response to COVID-19.

STUDY PARTICIPANTS’ PROFILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Male (N=242)</th>
<th>Female (N=552)</th>
<th>Total (N=794)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24-year-olds (%)1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>89***</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean years of schooling</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10***</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>62***</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hindu</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC/ST</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other backward caste</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth index (quintiles as of UDAYA 2015-16 survey)2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom two quintiles (poor)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top two quintiles (rich)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant households (%)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with at least one school-going child aged 6-14</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with at least one school-going child attending a government school</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a pregnant or lactating woman or a child aged 6-72 months</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58***</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households holding a ration card</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1The remaining respondents were aged 25 and above; Household wealth index was calculated based on ownership of selected durable goods and amenities, as of UDURIA survey in 2015-16, with possible scores ranging from 0 to 100.

ECONOMIC SHOCKS DURING LOCKDOWN

UDAYA cohort households (N=794)

- Households with at least one member who lost job (%)
- Can survive less than 2 weeks
- Can survive 2 weeks to one month
- More than one month

UDAYA cohort migrant households (N=264)

- Households with at least one member who lost job (%)
- Can survive less than 2 weeks
- Can survive 2 weeks to one month
- More than one month

SHG leaders (N=179)

- Family members of at least one SHG member lost income/job
- At least one SHG member needed cash desperately

Awareness of social protection schemes

- PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- At least one SHG member
-女性
- At least one family member
- At least one SHG
- At least one household
- At least one member
- PM Ujjwala Yojana
- PM Jeevan Jyot
- PM Kisan Yojana
- PM Kishore Kalyan Yojana
- MGNREGA
- PM AatmaNirbhar Bharat Yojana
- At least one SHG member
- PM Aam Din Aam Raat Yojana
- PM Kisan Samman Yojana
- PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana
- PM Garib Kalyan Yojana
- At least one SHG

Note: *Based on answers given spontaneously in response to a single question about the awareness of social protection schemes, multiple responses possible.

- Almost 9 out of 10 participants, regardless of sex, were aware of at least one social protection measure.
- Most widely known measure was PM Jan Dhan Yojana (83% listed it spontaneously), followed by free dry ration (65%).
- Most participants heard about these measures either from television (64%) or social media (51%).

AWAIRENESS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES®

- PM Jan Dhan Yojana awareness
- Free Dry Ration
- Rs. 1000 for ration card holders
- PM Kisan Yojana
- Rs. 6000 for two resident workers (including both) from Bihar
- MGNREGA payment
- PM AatmaNirbhar Bharat Yojana
- PM AatmaNirbhar Bharat Yojana
- At least one SHG member
- PM Kisan Samman Yojana
- PM Kisan Samman Yojana
- At least one SHG
- PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana
- PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana
- At least one SHG
- PM Kisan Yojana
- PM Kisan Yojana
- At least one SHG
- PM Kisan Yojana
- PM Kisan Yojana
- At least one SHG

Note: **Based on answers given spontaneously in response to a single question about the awareness of social protection schemes, multiple responses possible.

- Almost 9 out of 10 participants, regardless of sex, were aware of at least one social protection measure.
- Most widely known measure was PM Jan Dhan Yojana (83% listed it spontaneously), followed by free dry ration (65%).
- Most participants heard about these measures either from television (64%) or social media (51%).

- Majority of participants in the household survey and the survey of SHG leaders reported loss of job/income earning opportunities and limited resources to survive.

AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES®
Almost all of them (95%) with a ration card received ration during lockdown. 10% of these households received cash for migrant workers. Rich (15%), the poorest 63 of those who were eligible to receive MNREGA benefits (N=620); One Rural SC/ST 57 55 50 50% of households had a pregnant/lactating woman or a child aged 6-72 months.

Notes: 1 of households that had a ration card (N=543); 2 of households that had a pregnant or lactating woman or a child aged 6-72 months (N=391)

86% of households had a ration card (74% among poor/poorest, 80% among medium and 65% among rich/richest group)

- Almost all of them (95%) with a ration card received ration in the month preceding the interview.
- Only two-fifths of them (40%) with a ration card reported that the ration received was sufficient.

49% of households had a pregnant/lactating woman or a child aged 6-72 months.

- One-third of (36%) them received take-home ration in the month preceding the interview.
- Those who did not receive (60% migrant HH) mentioned reasons such as anganwadi worker did not provide, respondent did not know that take-home ration is distributed through the anganwadi centre (15 %), the household name was not in the anganwadi centre list (26 %), and respondent/family member could not go to the centre to take the ration because of lockdown (10 %).

A larger proportion of respondents belonging to economically poor or average households, residing in rural areas, had received cash benefits from at least one social protection schemes than others.

**CASH BENEFITS RECEIVED**

- Cash from at least one SP scheme
- Rs.500 under PMJDY
- Cash benefit of Rs. 1000 as corona relief package
- Cash for migrant workers
- Pending payments under MNREGA
- Cash in lieu of mid-day meal

Notes: 1 based on full sample (N=794); 2 based on total number of migrant households (N=264); 3 of those who were eligible to receive MNREGA benefits (N=620); 4 of households that had a child aged 6-14 attending a government school (N=176).

- More than half of the respondents (55%) received cash benefits from at least one social protection scheme.
- Two-fifths (37%) received INR 500 under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY).
- About a fifth (18%) received INR 1,000 as COVID-19 relief package.
- 92% of these households were able to withdraw and use the money thus received.
- 38% of households had a migrant.
- 10% of these households received cash for migrant workers.
- 20% of households had a child aged 6-14 attending a government school.
- A little over a quarter (29% 95% CI: 22.2, 35.7) received cash in lieu of mid-day meals.
- Participants who received any cash benefits, received on average a modest amount of INR 1000 (Median).

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

This work was jointly undertaken by Population Council Institute and UNICEF/Bihar.

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