

Rapid perception survey on COVID-19 awareness and economic impact

April, 2020



Knowledge about COVID-19 and its impacts

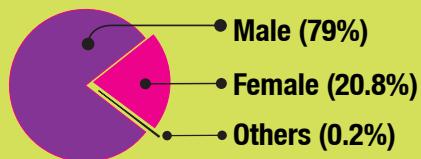
The survey aimed to obtain an overall insight of the general awareness level and economic distress caused by COVID-19 among the lower income group.

Methodology: Quantitative study using simple random survey.

Demographic characteristics

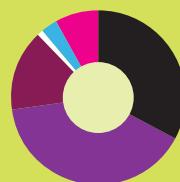


2,675
Respondents



Urban rural ratio:
50:50

Districts covered: **64**



Occupation:

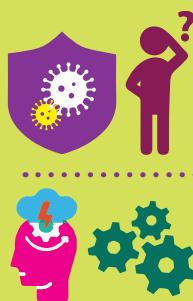
- Wage earners (33%),
- Service holder (40%),
- Self-employed (15%),
- Unemployed (1%),
- Homemaker (3%),
- Others (8%).

KEY FINDINGS

Varied level of awareness



99.6% respondents were aware of the infection (awareness mostly through television).



Level of awareness varied area wise— **56%** in urban areas were clueless of preventing measures and **65%** in rural areas were unsure of available treatment options.

More than one third respondents did not have a clear coping mechanism.

KEY FINDINGS

Adverse economic impact was evident



Wage earners of non-agro sector (**77%**) were the worst victims of economic impact.



Overall **14%** had no food at home. **29%** had only **1-3** days' food supply.



Net income loss was higher in rural areas (**80%**) than in urban areas (**69%**).



One-fifth of the respondents relied on credit facilities.

Measures taken by government were satisfactory



Around two-third (**68%**) of the respondents supported the general declaration of lockdown.



23% believed that public relief would be available.



64% were satisfied with the government's overall response to contain the spread of infection.



47% thought food rations to be better than cash-based support.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS



Decentralisation of treatment and testing facilities is necessary to ensure accessibility of all population.



Awareness campaigns in urban areas should focus more on treatment rather than the virus.



Immediate food assistance programmes should be undertaken.



Government should take necessary steps to bridge the gap between banks and micro-credit enterprises.