



Rapid perception survey on COVID-19 awareness and economic impact (vol. 2)

May, 2020



Knowledge about COVID-19 and its impacts

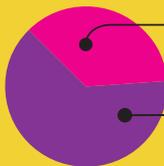
A follow-up study of the April 2020 survey was conducted on impoverished communities across Bangladesh to assess the impact of economic lockdown and the evolving economic stress.

Methodology: Quantitative study using simple random survey.

Demographic characteristics

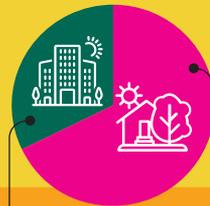


2,317
Respondents



36.5% Male

63.5% Female



32%
Urban

68%
Rural

Districts covered: **64**

Occupation:

- Homemaker – (42%),
- Small business owner (16%),
- Large business owner (7%),
- Farmer (4%),
- Cottage industry owner (4%),
- Service holder (8%),
- Daily wage earners – (10%),
- Skilled labor (2%),
- Factory worker (2%),
- Hotel/restaurant worker (1%),
- Others (4%).

KEY FINDINGS

Awareness level improved



59% respondents were fully aware of the infection and **38%** were partially aware.



Awareness is higher among men (**67%**) compared to women (**55%**).



76% of the respondents always followed the general hygiene practices. However, rest were found irregular in maintaining hygiene practices.



Nearly **80%** of the respondents' felt safe or at little risk of getting infected.



26% believed that there is no treatment of coronavirus.



37% respondents thought that the district-level government hospitals do not treat COVID-19 patients.



23% were unaware of any available treatment facility at government hospitals.

KEY FINDINGS

Livelihood and food security at stake



36% of the respondents lost their job or earning opportunities. The percentage was alarmingly higher among women (**50%**) and those living in urban areas (**55%**). This percentage was **62%** among low-income daily wage earners.



Overall, **95%** of the respondents experienced a decline in household income during the lockdown (average reduction – **76%**).



On an average, **16%** reported of having only **1-3** days' food storage to survive. **3%** of the households did not have any food storage during the survey time.



69% did not receive any government support.



63% respondents opined that overall measures taken by the government to handle the situation were somewhat adequate.



Overall, **91%** of the respondents expressed their satisfaction over the role of law and order agencies.



The economic stress disproportionately affected women. **57%** of female headed households had zero income compared to **49%** of male headed households.



81.6% of respondents said that violence against women remained unchanged.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS:



The recovery and rehabilitation plans need to be reviewed and implemented using a 'pro-poor' lens. Special focus should be given to the households with greater vulnerability, such as women-headed households.



Public-private partnerships can strengthen the targeting process and block leakages in social safety net programmes. NGOs and community-based organisations could be engaged to monitor the beneficiary list.



Unemployed persons can be engaged by government in food distribution/cash transfer and COVID-19 response plan to create earning opportunities.