

POST- COVID ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WORKERS/ LABOURS CLASS

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Abstract

Indian has been under lockdown since March 25, 2020. During this time, activities not contributing to the production and supply of essential goods and services were completely or partially suspended. Passenger trains and flights were halted. The lockdown has severely impacted migrants, several of whom lost their jobs due to shutting of industries and were stranded outside their native places wanting to get back. Since then, the government has announced relief measures for migrants and made arrangements for migrants to return to their native place. The Supreme Court of India, recognising the problems faced by migrants stranded in different parts of the country, reviewed transportation and relief arrangements

Made by the Government On June 9, the Court directed central and state governments to complete transportation of remaining stranded migrants and expand the focus of relief measures to facilitate employment for returning migrants. In this blog, we highlight some facts about migration in India, summarise key relief measures announced by the government and directives issued by the Supreme Court for the migrant population in relation to the lockdown.

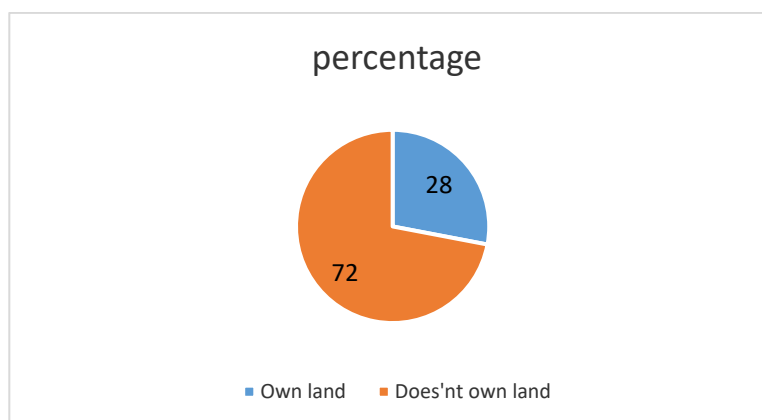
INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the global economy and revealed structural fault lines across developed and developing countries, adding an urgency to questions of dignified wages and work, access to essential services and basic rights, and social and ecological justice

Land Ownership:

Land Ownership According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18, 54 per cent of India's population resides in rural areas, out of which 68 per cent derive their livelihood from agriculture and allied sectors. In our sample, 72 percent workers do not own agriculture land and only 28 per cent have small and marginal land.

Land ownership
(No. of respondents - 11,530)

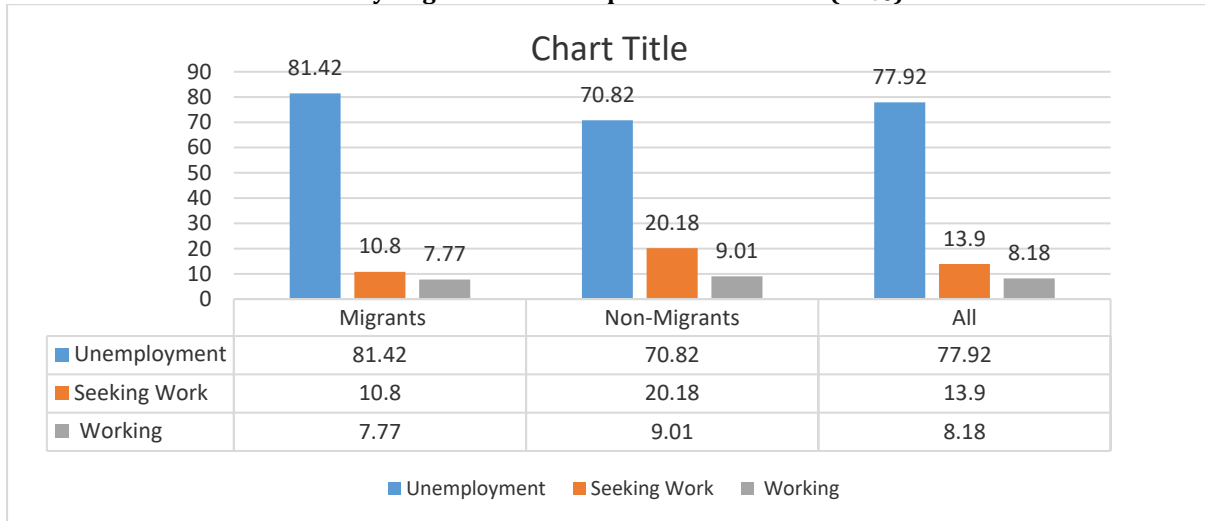


Impact of COVID-19:

Migrants:

Given the below diagram there are 81 percent Migrants worker loss the job.
Non Migrants Workers are 71 percent loss their job.

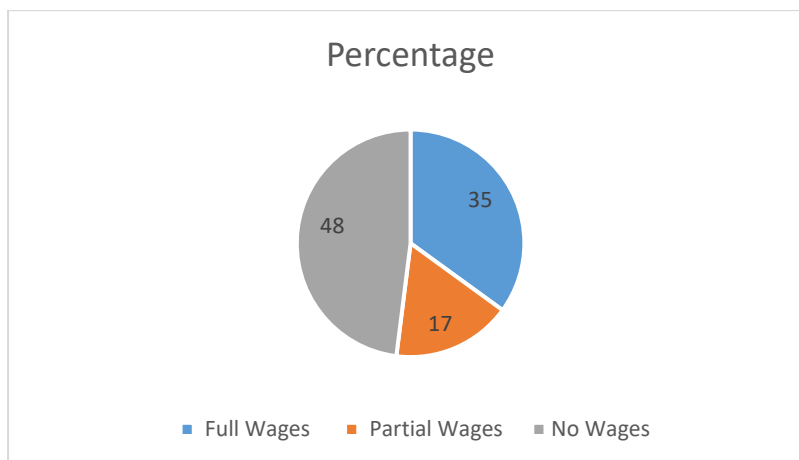
Status of employment by migration status
(No. of respondents – 11,514)
Status of work by migration in third phase of lockdown (in %)



Non-payment and Loss of Wages :

As the lockdown was imposed in the last week of March, many workers had not received their month-end salary or their cumulative wages from their employers. In our sample, 48 percent of respondents did not receive any wages after the lockdown was announced and 17 percent received partial wages. Only 35 percent of respondents reported having received full wages.

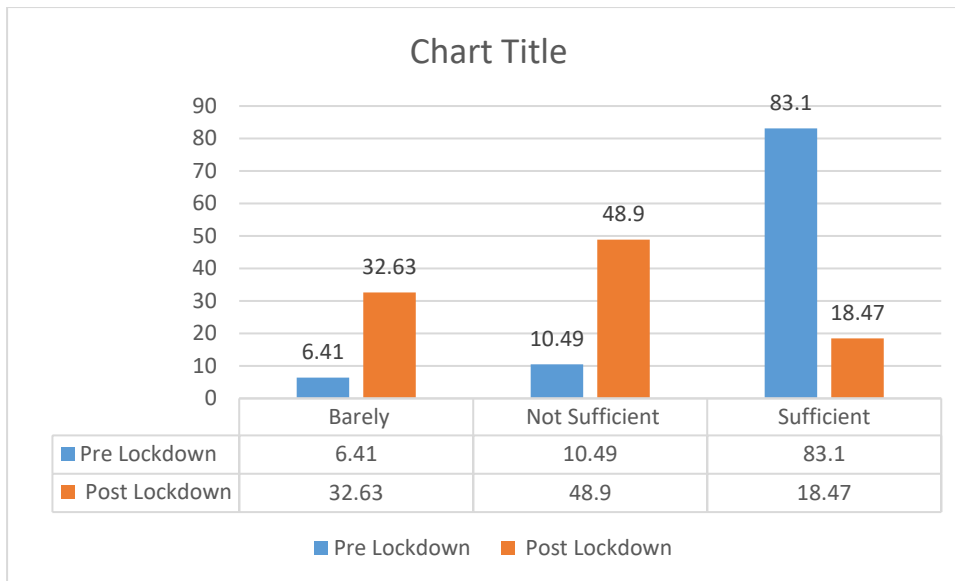
Wages received at the time of lockdown
(No. of respondents – 11,520)
Payment of wages at time of lockdown



Fall in Consumption and Savings:

Respondents were asked whether or not they had access to sufficient food and water, as well as the status of their savings, debt, and housing after the lockdown

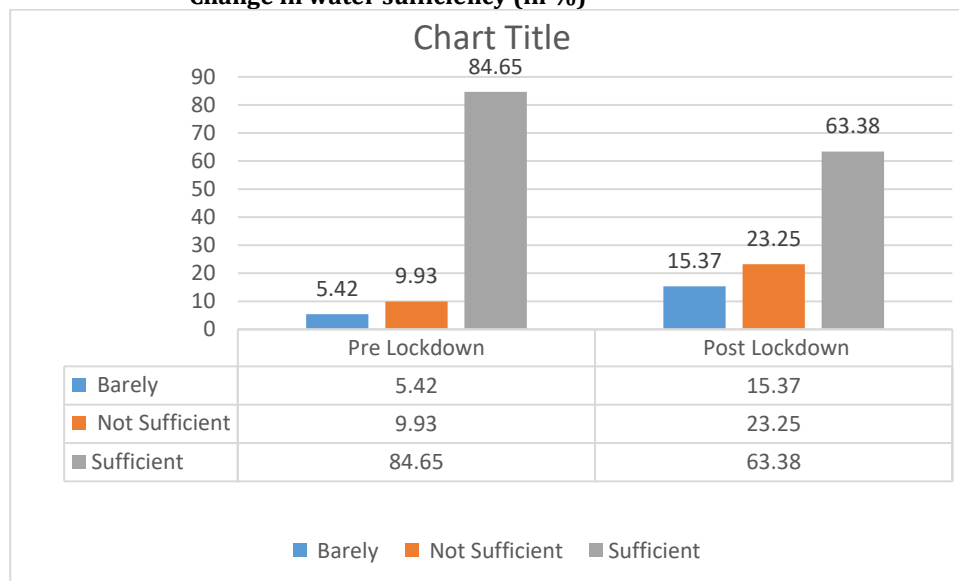
Food: Level of food sufficiency
(No. of respondents – 11,520)
Change in food sufficiency (in %)



Only 18 per cent of respondents reported that their food consumption was “sufficient”, a massive decrease from before the lockdown when 83 per cent of them believed that their food consumption was sufficient. 49 per cent of workers said that their food consumption was not sufficient, with an additional 33 per cent saying that theirs was “barely sufficient”. Here “sufficiency” is a subjective estimate based on what each respondent believes to be “sufficient” for their consumption.

Water:

Water sufficiency
(No. of respondents – 11,520)
Change in water sufficiency (in %)

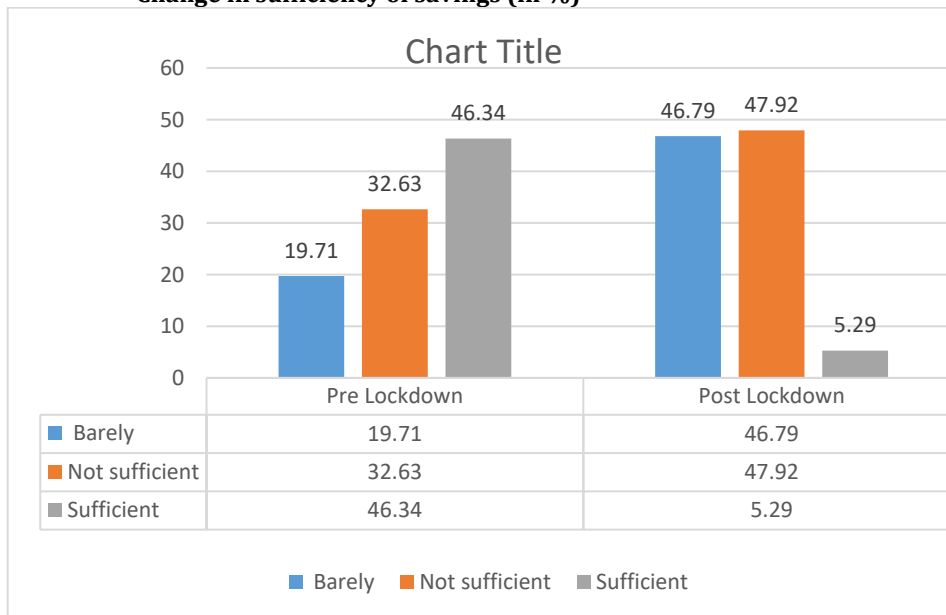


After the lockdown was imposed, 63 per cent people said that their water consumption was sufficient, whereas 23 per cent reported that it was not sufficient. More than 15 per cent workers reported that their water consumption was barely sufficient. This paints a worrying picture, as low level of consumption of water during a pandemic indicates that people do not have the means to maintain adequate sanitation and hygiene to protect themselves.

Saving:

There has been a drastic drop in people’s savings during the lockdown. 46 per cent of respondents said that their savings were sufficient before the lockdown, but only five per cent said that they were sufficient after the lockdown had been imposed. 48 per cent workers said that their savings were not sufficient and 47 per cent said that their saving were barely sufficient after the imposition of the lockdown.

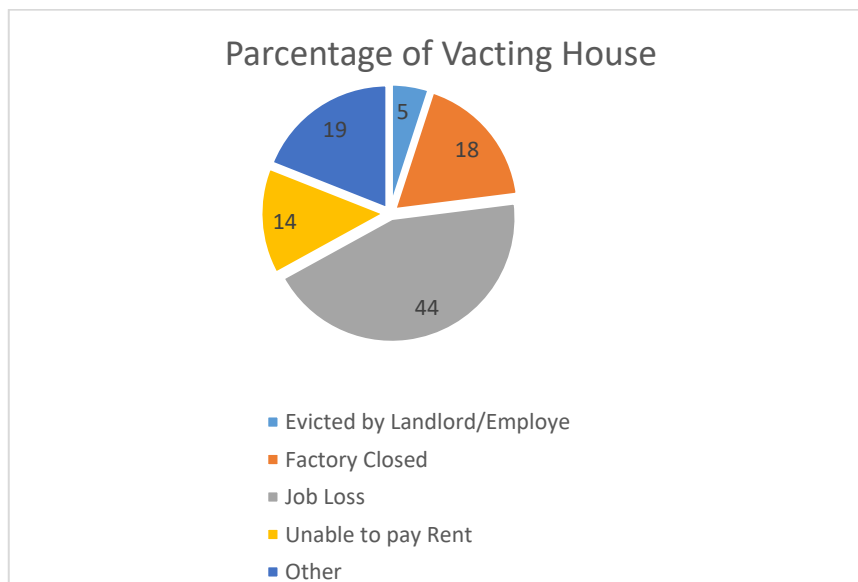
Sufficiency of savings
(No. of respondents – 11,520)
Change in sufficiency of savings (in %)



Loss of Housing:

There have been several reports of people struggling to pay their rent in the aftermath of the lockdown as they have lost their incomes and livelihood. It has been particularly challenging for migrant workers,

Reasons for vacating housing in destination state (No. of respondents – 3,647)



KEY FINDINGS

- Widespread loss of livelihoods and wage
- migration patterns
- Precarious status of Housing
- Low Savings and high debts
- Reduction in Consumption

<https://www.gapinterdisciplinaries.org/>

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