

RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY III



HOW ARE FAMILIES OF CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE COPING WITH THE LOCKDOWN IN MUMBAI CITY AND SUBURBAN DISTRICTS

JUNE 2021, MUMBAI

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN
MAHARASHTRA

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Introduction & Background	1
2. Findings from the 3rd Rapid	6
Assessment Survey of families of child victims of sexual abuse in Mumbai	
• Health status & access to health services	6
• Access and Quality of Education Status	13
• Employment Status	27
• Perception of the families to the measures being taken to tackle the pandemic.	34
• Perception of children WRT online education and their experience during the lockdown.	41
3. Analysis of secondary data focusing on the legal status of the cases and victim compensation	46
4. Way Forward	48

A. Introduction & Background

In the one year since the COVID -19 pandemic, Maharashtra entered a lockdown in the month of March 2020, the lockdown restrictions were lifted in October 2020. The 2nd wave of the pandemic hit in early 2021 and Maharashtra has been placed under fresh restriction to curb the rising number of cases. During the entire process the central and state governments made promises of providing assistance and aid to the citizens affected by the pandemic and its resultant lockdowns. However, the on-ground realities are in stark contradiction to the promising declarations of aid and assistance from both central and state governments.

In the last week of March 2020, we conducted our first round of needs assessment with 127 families and released 1st Rapid Assessment report on 5th of April 2020. The objective of the assessment was to understand if the families were safe, healthy & capable of sustaining through the lockdown. While administering the questionnaire over the phone, the families were given general information about the lockdown & pandemic, related government schemes as well as health & hygiene measures.

In last week of April 2020, the 2nd Rapid Assessment was administered to reassess and contextualize the situation w.r.t health, food & accessibility to key Government schemes that were announced. The assessment also attempts to capture the psycho-social needs of the families, challenges faced by them during the lockdown, their financial status, their plans in terms of the education of the children, their work and whether or not they would choose to migrate out of the city once the lockdown was lifted. Based on the results of 2nd assessment, the of intervention with the families was be strategized and implemented in order to ensure that the families' requirement in terms of basic ration and psycho-social support were met.

In the **3rd edition of the Rapid Assessment Report**, we envisage to find out and focus on the living conditions of 113 families out of the 271 families of child victims of sexual offences living in Mumbai city, suburban, Thane, Raigad, Solapur and Nashik districts of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. We have been working with these families in partnership with UNICEF Maharashtra since 2015. The telephone calls for the data collection had been made to 120 families, but the responses of 7 families were not documented as they had been unable to provide responses. The reason for the inability to gain their responses ranged from there being a death in the family, connectivity issues and the families not answering the calls made by the researchers. The remaining 151 families had not been contacted as over the years the cases had been closed or contact had been lost with them. The vast majority of these families belong to lower socioeconomic groups, whose access to a consistent wage, sufficient nutrition, the continued education of children, etc. had been tremendously impacted by the extended restrictions imposed which was reflected in the responses received during the 1st and 2nd rapid assessment.

The third rapid assessment is focused on collecting qualitative data from the families regarding their health, the access to health services, effect on employment of the family members, effect on their ability to fulfill daily household expenses and education of the children. The data was collected via telephone conversations with the participants on the basis of a predesigned questionnaire. This edition of the rapid assessment focuses on gathering information from both the adults (parents or guardians of the child victims) and the children (victims of sexual offences or the eldest child in the family) in the household. This Assessment Report is an attempt to contextualize the ground realities one year post the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Objectives of the Rapid Assessment:

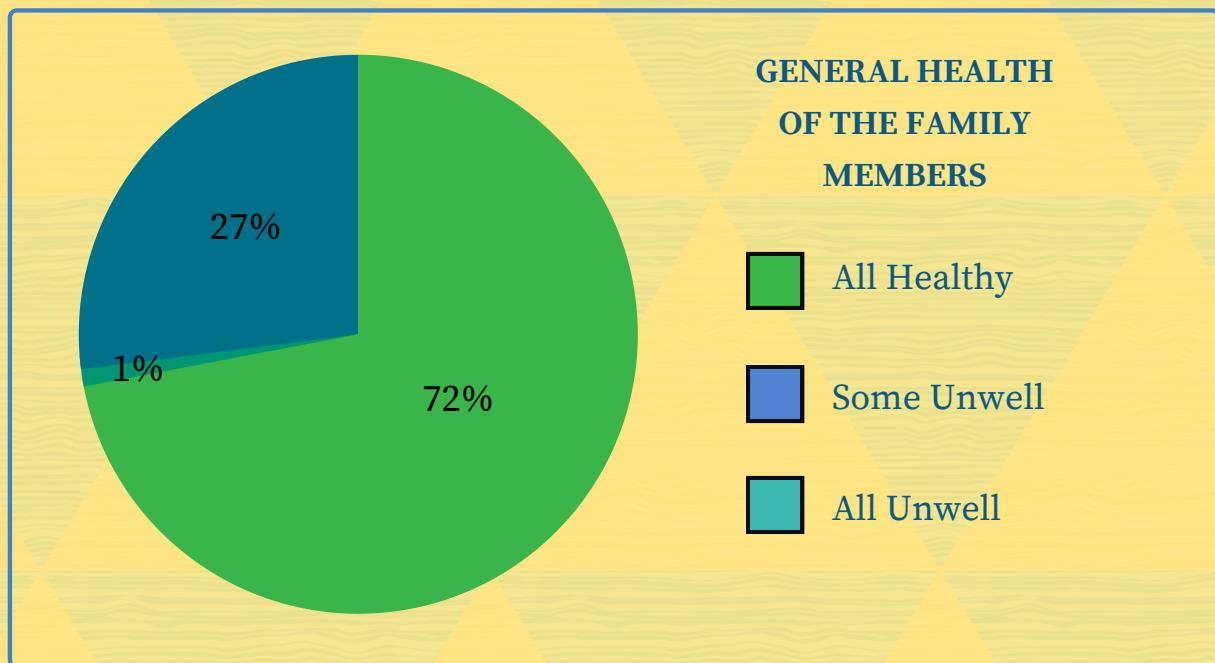
1. To assess the current health condition of the families and the health services available to the families during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To understand the access and quality of online educational services available to children during the lockdown
3. To review the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and current lockdown on the employment status of the families.
4. To explore the methods employed by the families to manage household expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. To understand the perception of the families towards the measures being taken by the government to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. To understand the perception of the children in the families regarding the online education they are receiving and their experiences during the lockdown.

Period of Data Collection: May 2021 to June 2021



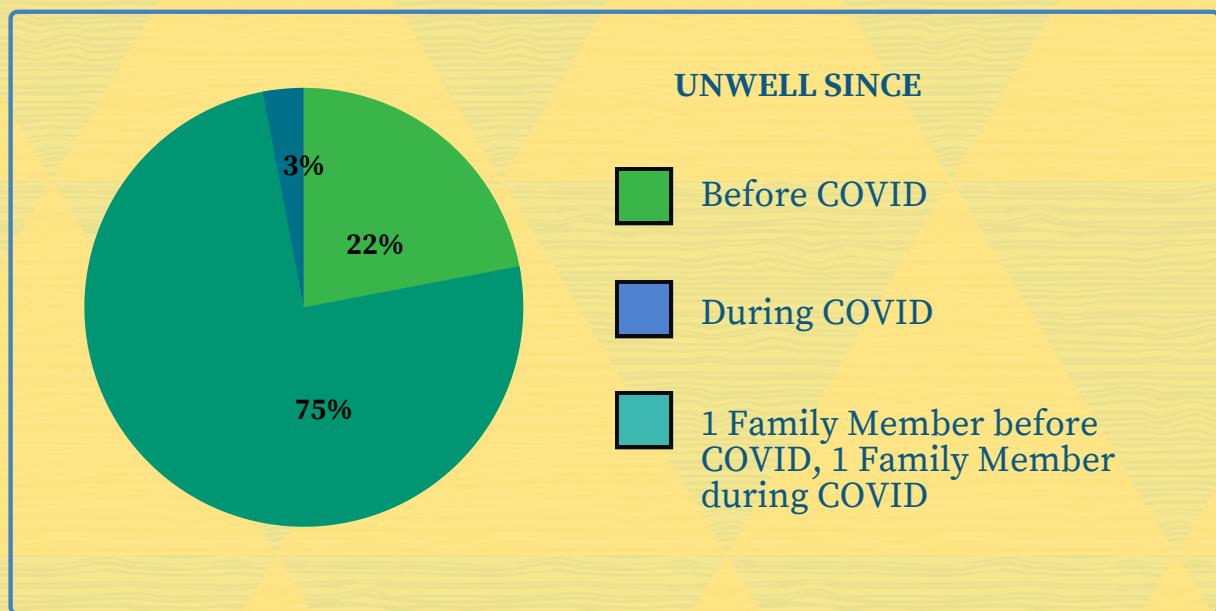
B. Findings from the 3rd Rapid Assessment Survey of Families Of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse in Mumbai

I. Health Status & Access to Health Services



The above chart represents the health status of the family members. 71% (81) families surveyed responded that their members were all healthy and had no health issues. 27% (31) families responded that some members in the family were ill, and 1% (1) family responded that everyone in the family were suffering at the point of data collection from some illness.

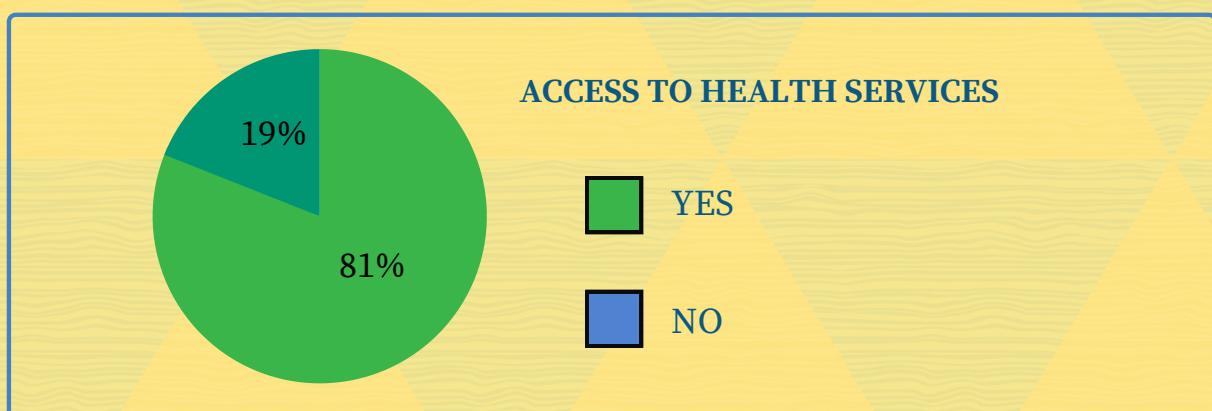
Of the 32 families that mentioned that there were unwell members in their household, illnesses ranged from the common cold, fever, stomach-ache, jaundice, urinary tract infection, cataract and previously identified illnesses such as thyroid, tuberculosis, cholesterol, diabetes, blood pressure, paralysis, heart conditions, swollen liver, piles and PCOS.



The above chart represents the responses collected in May 2021. Out of 31 families, the majority 75% (24) respondents mentioned that members from the household fell ill during the COVID-19 pandemic, while 22% (7) respondents mentioned that members from the household had been unwell since before COVID-19.

In 1 household (3%) one family member had been unwell since before the pandemic and another family member fell ill during the pandemic

a. Access to Health Services



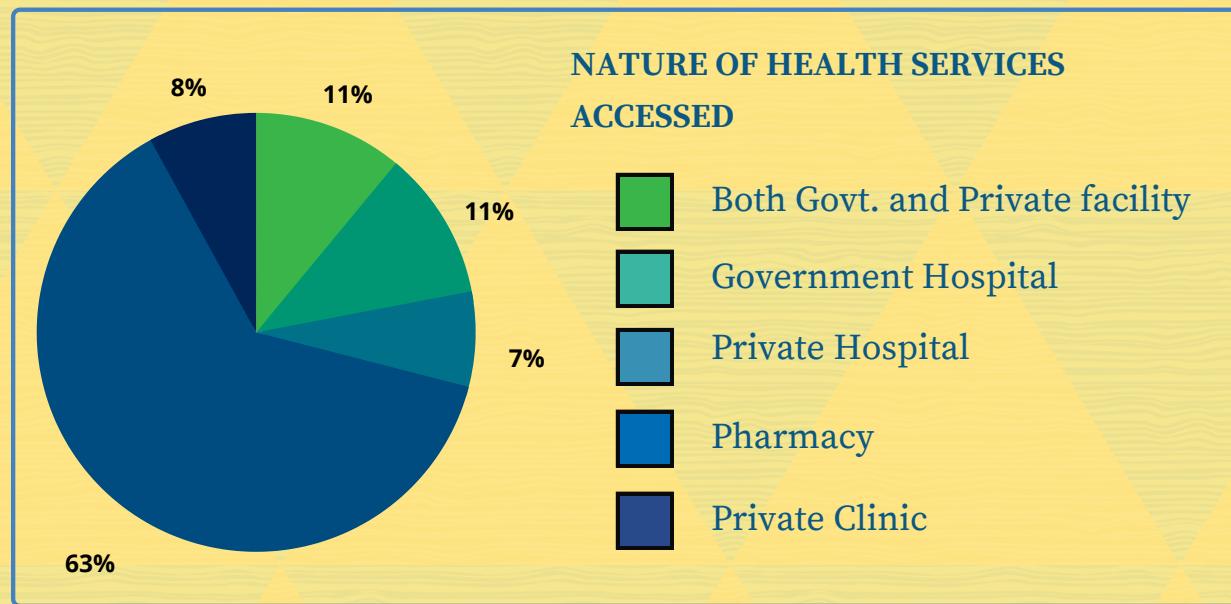
The above chart represents the responses of 32 respondents who mentioned that members of the household were ill, 26 (81%) respondents stated that they were able to access health services and 6 (19%) respondents answered that they had been unable to access health services.

The reasons informed by the 6 (19%) respondents that were unable to access the health service were

- that the families avoided going to the hospital due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- the hospitals asked them to visit again after a month because they were treating COVID patients,
- lack of finances to support the treatment. hospitals did not have the specialists available for the treatment.

Some families where members were suffering from cold and cough, opted for home remedies such as drinking kadha, taking steam and drinking warm water.

b. Nature of health service accessed

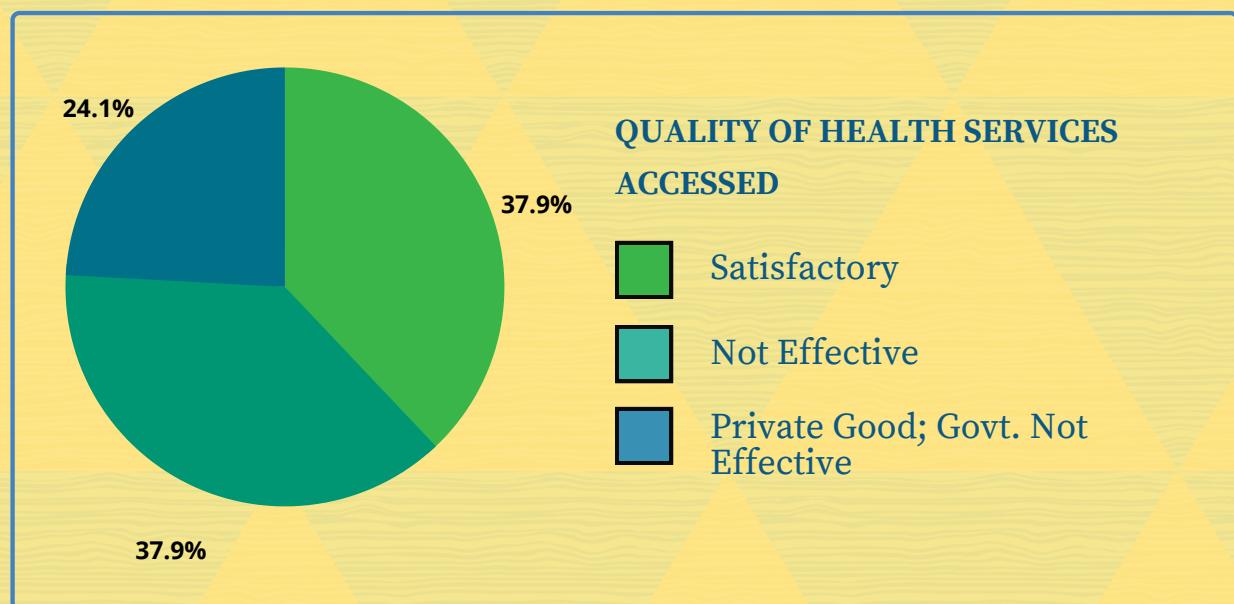


The above chart shows that of the 26 families where members had been able to access health services, 17(63%) families accessed private clinics, 3 (11%) families visited government hospitals, 3 (11%) families received treatment from private hospitals, 2 (7%) families acquired medicines from local pharmacies and 2 (8%) families reached out to both government hospitals and private medical facilities.

There were 3 families who tried to approach government hospitals for medical aid but did not receive any assistance as the hospital was either a COVID centre or the doctor did not have a specialist to treat the particular ailment the patient was experiencing hence the family members had been asked to visit the hospital at a later date or visit another medical facility.

In the situations where the family members reached out to both government and private hospitals, they first reached out to the government hospitals where they were not provided with treatment as the hospitals were either COVID centers or they did not have a specialist to treat the member; and therefore, the family reached out to the private health facility.

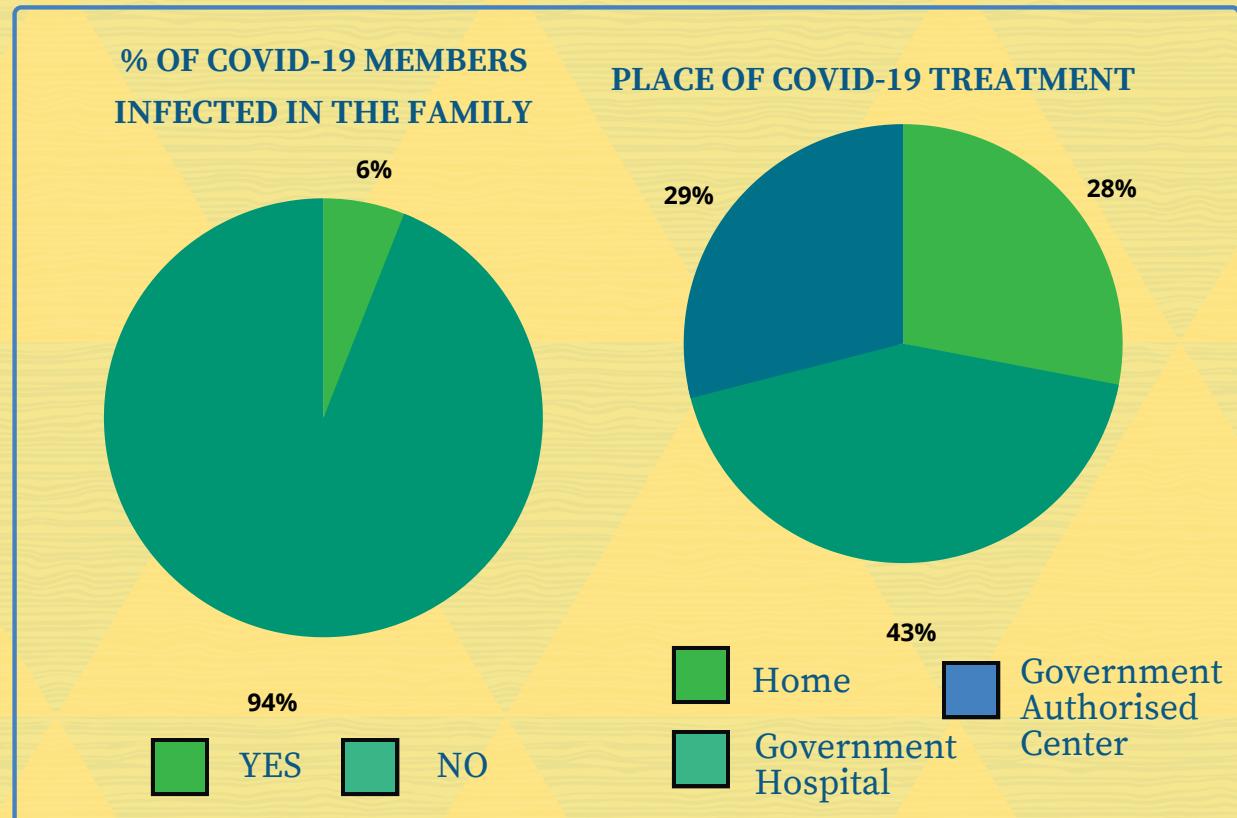
c. Quality of the health service that the family accessed



The above chart represents the responses of the 29 respondents regarding the quality of health services accessed. The 29 respondents include the 26 respondents who received medical assistance and 3 respondents who tried to access the health system but were unable to receive medical assistance. 86% (25) respondents claimed that the quality of health service accessed by them was satisfactory, the 3 families (10%) who were unable to receive medical assistance answered the question

as having received unsatisfactory medical assistance and 1 family (4%) claimed that the services provided by the private medical facility was better than the services provided by the government facility they had approached.

d. COVID-19 Infections in the family



In the above chart, majority of the respondents 106 families (94%) stated that no one had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus in their household since January 2021 and 7 (6%) families respondents disclosed that some or all members of the household had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The above chart represents that out of the 7 (6%) respondents that stated that family members had been infected with COVID-19, 3 (43%) respondents stated that the infected family members had been quarantined and treated at government hospitals, 2 (29%) respondents had treated the ill family members at government authorized centers and 2 (28%) respondents stated that the ill members had been quarantined at home and received treatment at home.

e. Procedures followed for treatment

Where the COVID positive members were hospitalized, the respondents informed that the family had no idea about the exact procedures followed at the hospital, but they informed that the members were given regular medicines and oxygen supply when needed at the hospital.

The COVID positive members from 2 families were quarantined at the government authorized centers. There they were provided medicines by the BMC doctors stationed at the centers.

The members that were quarantined at home, relied on home remedies such as kadha, steam inhalation, isolation along with the zinc and vitamin C medicines prescribed by the government doctors.

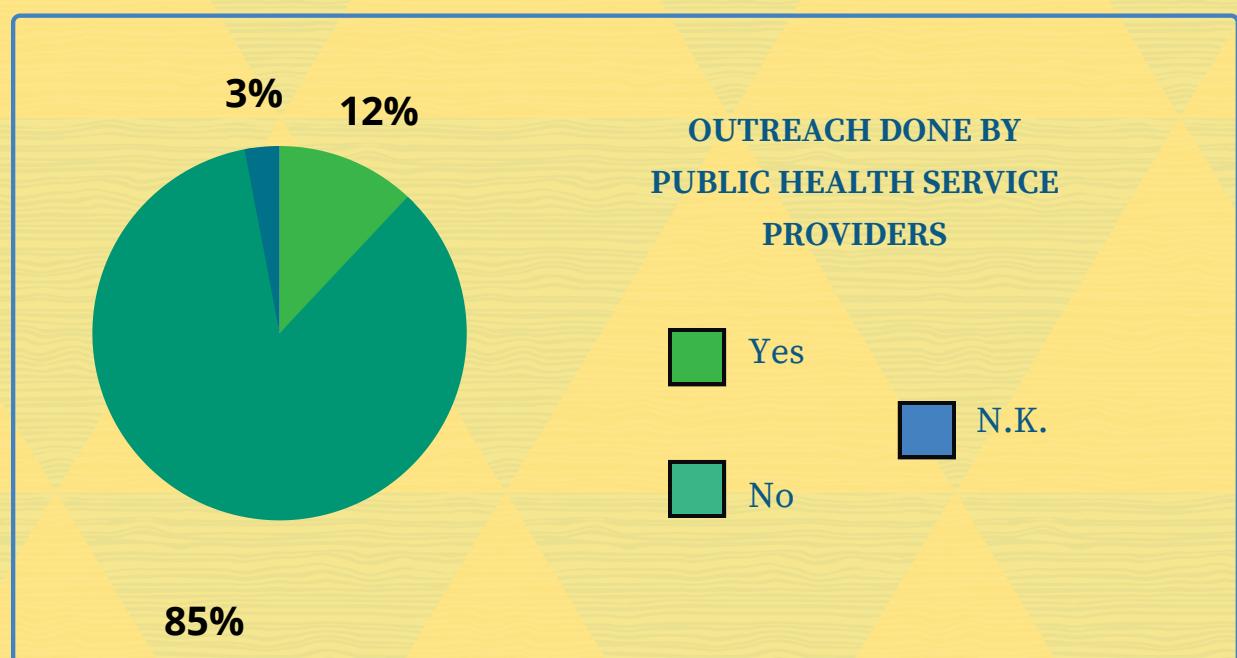
f. Cost of the treatment

The members that were treated at the government hospitals did not have to bear any cost for the treatment except the travel costs to and from the hospitals which ranged from Rs.100 to Rs.500.

Members that were treated at home had to bear costs between Rs.400 to Rs.2000 for the medicines.

One of the family spent Rs.25000 for treatment of 4 members on medicines and treatment prescribed by a family doctor and they were quarantined at home.

g. Outreach done by Public Health care service providers



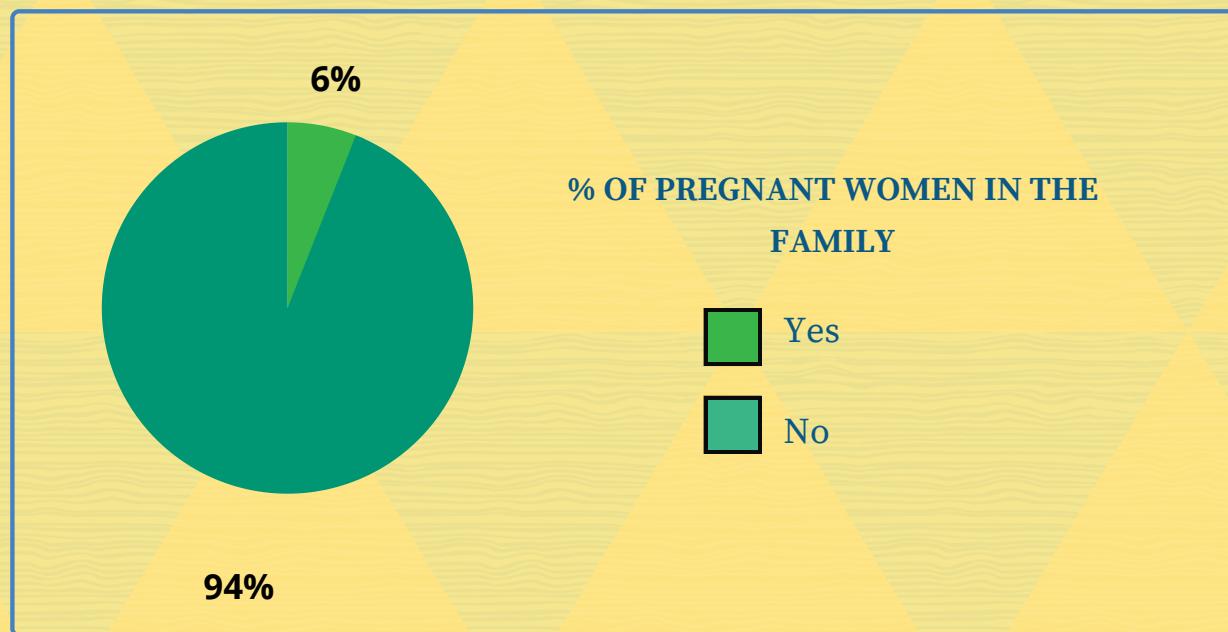
The above chart represents information wrt to the outreach done by the Public Health Service providers during the lockdown. Majority of the respondents i.e 96 (85%) respondents mentioned that there was no outreach w.r.t the COVID-19 pandemic or lockdown done by the Public health care service providers.

14 (12%) respondents informed that there was some kind of outreach that was done. 3 (3%) respondents stated that they were unsure if the outreach was done as no one had reached out while they were at home.

The 14 (12 %) respondents who informed about the outreach done by PHCW mentioned that the public health care services ranged from conduction of fortnightly follow ups of the members diagnosed with COVID19, temperature checks and blood test of the community, to outreach on awareness and prevention of COVID-19 and the vaccinations created against the virus.

A respondent informed that, “The BMC health workers made a WhatsApp group of the members residing in a few neighborhood buildings and provided resource material w.r.t COVID-19 and also kept monitoring if any member was COVID positive”.

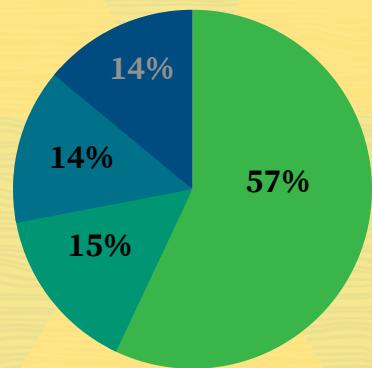
h. Pregnant women in the Family



The above chart represents details regarding the pregnant women in the family. 7 (6%) of the respondents mentioned that there was a pregnant woman in their household. While the majority 106 (94%) respondents informed that there was no pregnant woman in the household.

PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWED BY PREGNANT WOMEN

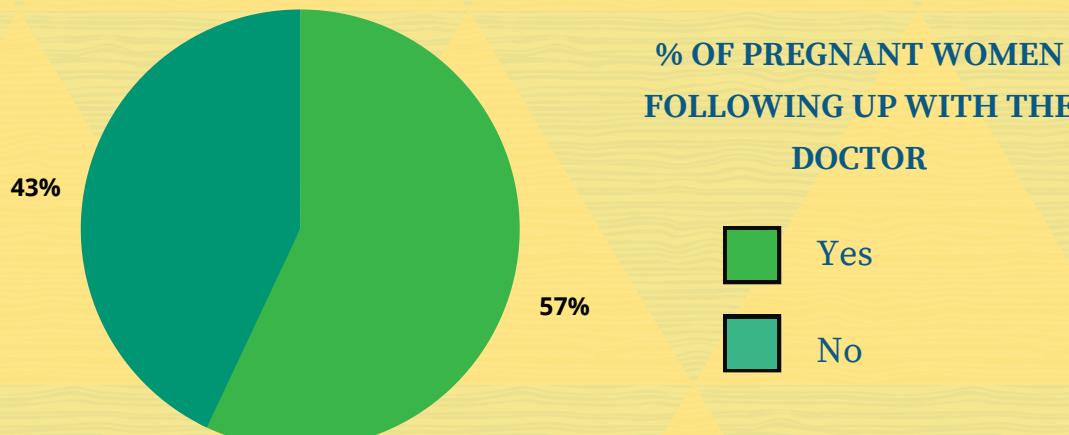
- Avoids going out of the house and following the COVID precautions
- Avoids going out of the house, following the COVID precautions and regular doctor check-up
- Following the COVID precautions
- Regular visits to the doctor



The above chart highlights the precautions taken by the pregnant women currently. The precautions followed by the pregnant women ranged from

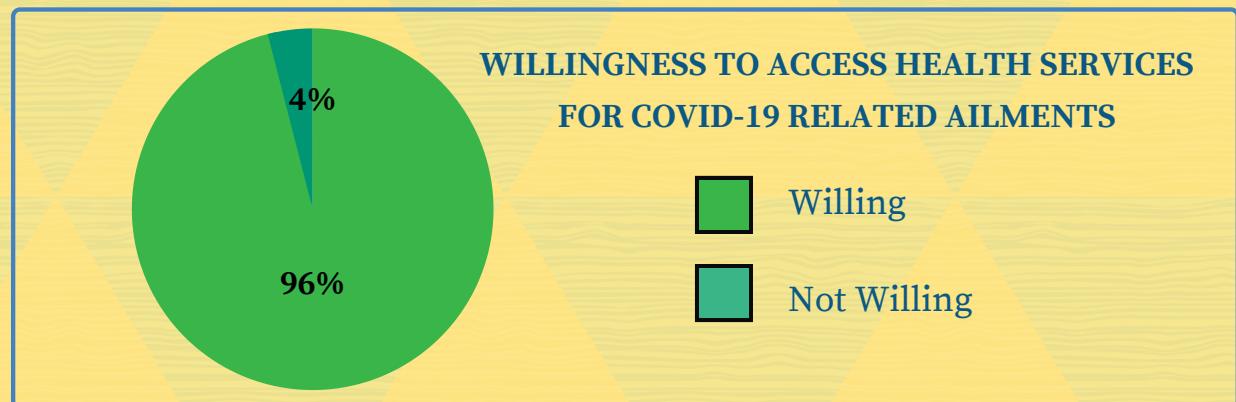
- Following government mandated COVID – 19 Protocols
- Avoid stepping out of the house unnecessarily
- Regular follow ups with the doctor

j. Regular Medical Check-Up of the pregnant women



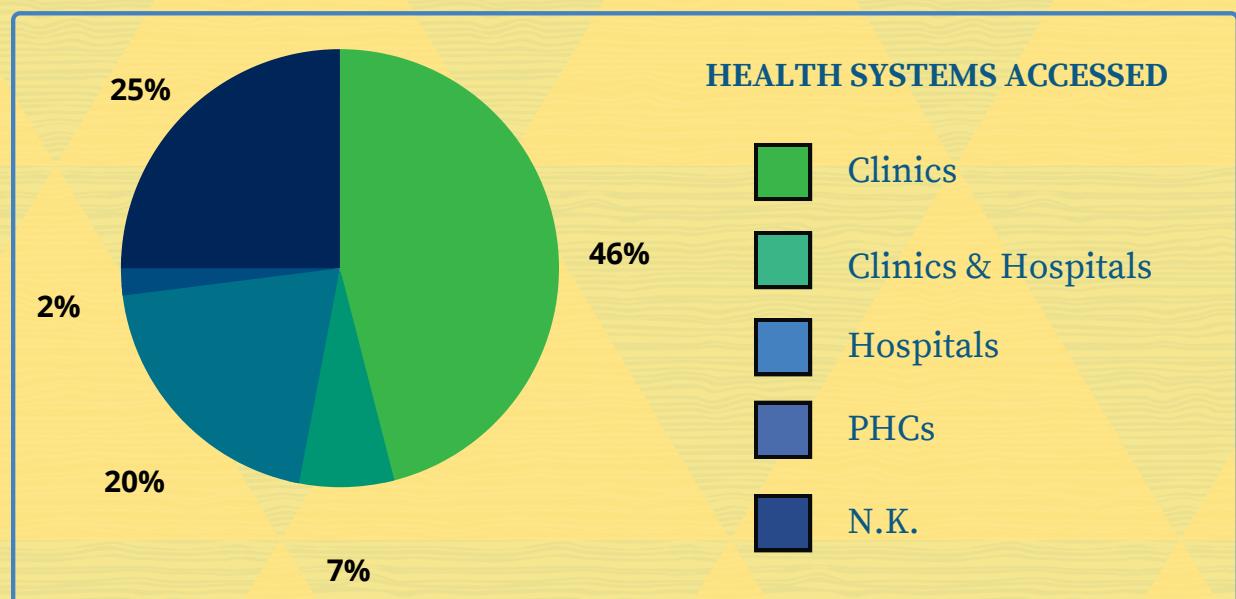
When enquired how many women were regularly visiting their doctors for regular checkups, only 4 (57%) respondents stated that the pregnant women visited their doctors on regular basis. The remaining 3 (43%) respondents said that regular doctor visits were not followed by the pregnant women in the household.

k. Willingness of the families to access health services for non-COVID-19 related ailments



Majority respondents 109 (96%) respondents informed that they were open to accessing the health systems for other ailments as and when required. Whereas 4 respondents (4%) stated that they were not willing to access the health systems.

1. Which health systems would they access? (Clinics, PHCs, Hospitals)

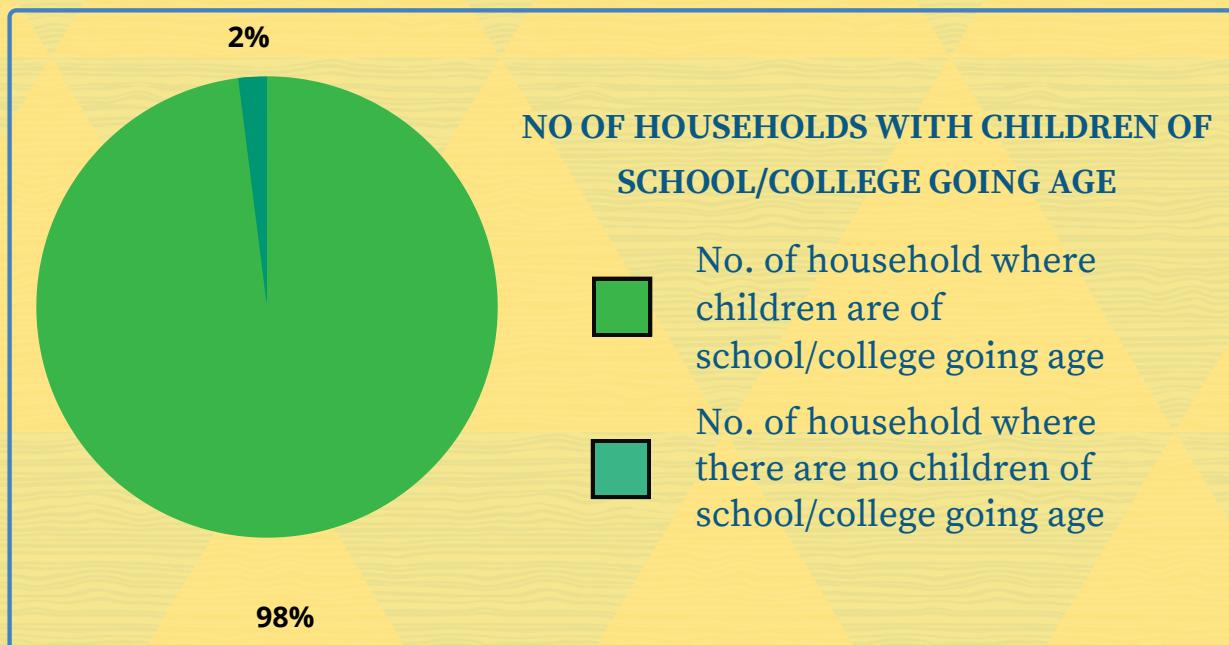


The above chart highlights the health systems that the family accessed. Out of the 109 respondents who mentioned a willingness to access the health services, 52 (46%) respondents stated that they would prefer seeking medical assistance from private clinics. 22 (20%) respondents mentioned that they would prefer going to either a government or private hospital.

8 (7%) respondents were willing to access both clinics and hospitals, 2 (2%) respondents mentioned that they would visit the local PHC. While 28 (25%) respondents though willing to access the health, systems were unsure which system they would access when a medical emergency arises.

2. Access and Quality of Education Status

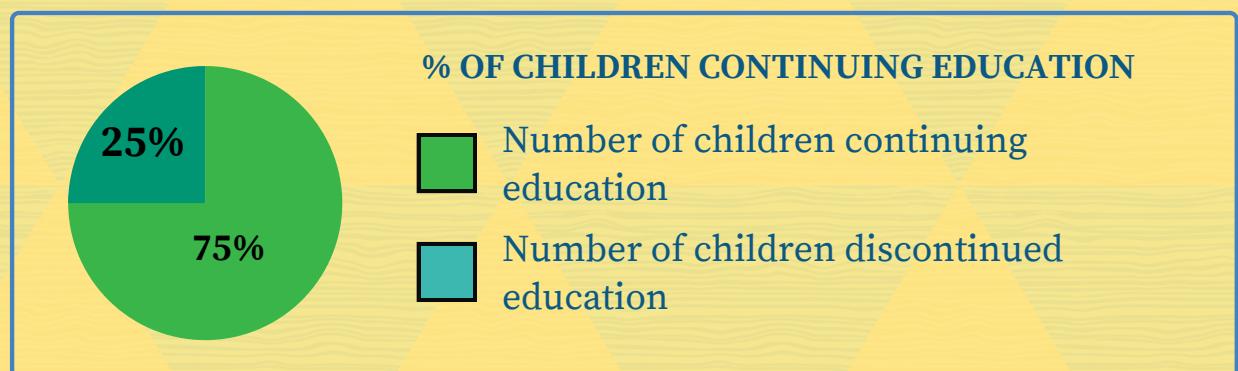
a. How many children are of school/college going age?



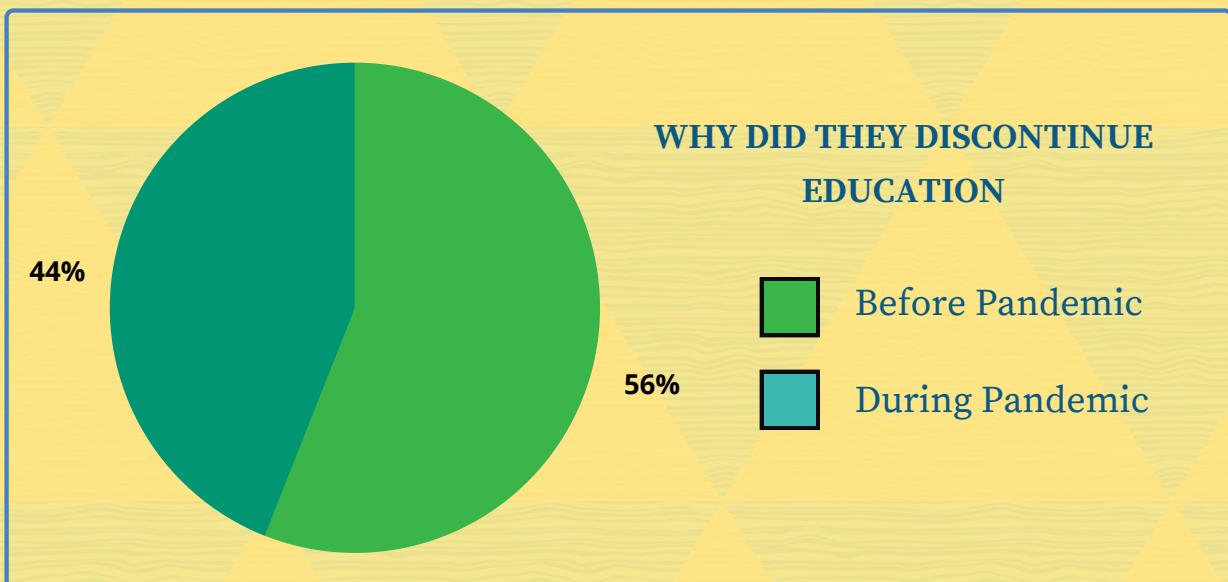
The above chart shows the number of households with children that are school and college going age. When asked about the number of children in the family that were of school or college going age, 111 (98%) respondents stated that there were individuals of school or college going age in the household. The number of individuals varied from 1 to 5 in a household and a total of 249 individuals are currently of school/college going age. Only 2 (1%) respondents replied that no one in the household was of school or college going age.

b. How many students are continuing education?

The chart below shows that out of the 248 individuals who were of school or college going age, 75% (191) individuals were enrolled in an educational institution and were continuing their education. 57 individuals (25%) had either discontinued their education or were still not enrolled in any formal educational institution.



c. When did they discontinue education?



The above chart represents that 44% of the respondents informed that the children discontinued education during COVID pandemic and 56% had discontinued education before the pandemic.

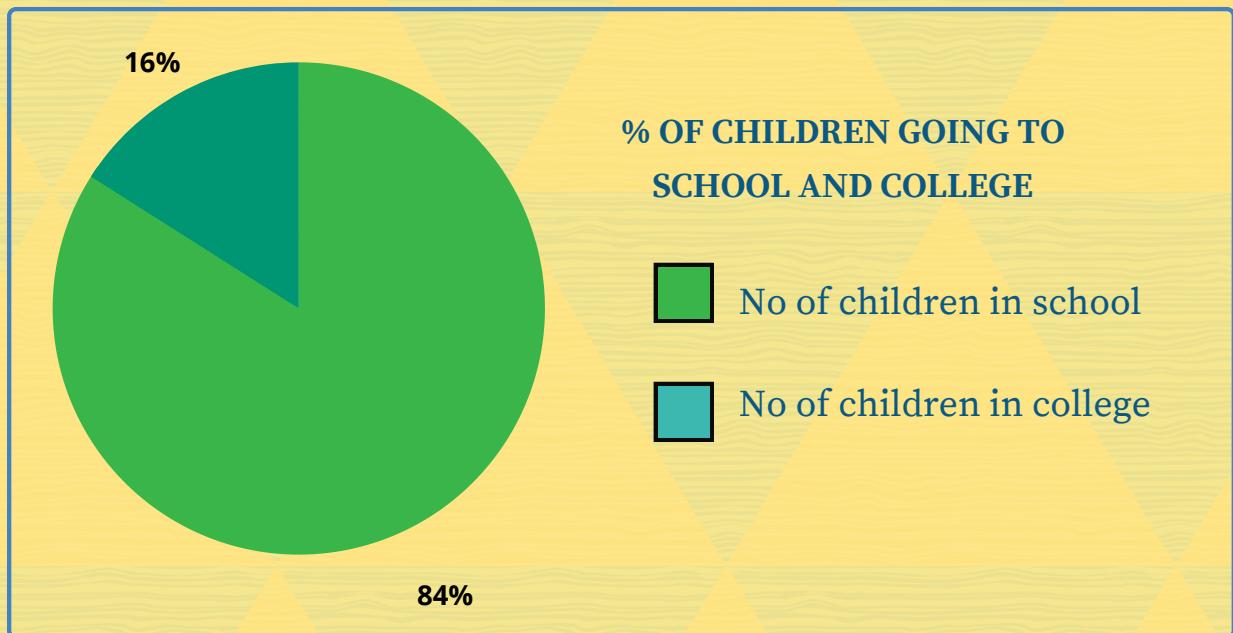
d. Why did the children discontinue education?

When asked the reason behind the children discontinuing their education, the reasons mentioned by the respondents ranged from inability to pay fees, not able to secure admission, inability to understand lectures online as teacher-student interaction was limited, loss of interest, no contact from school, school and colleges not conducting online lectures and further not updating the families on when the lectures would resume, migration due to the pandemic, Balwadis discontinued due to lockdown.

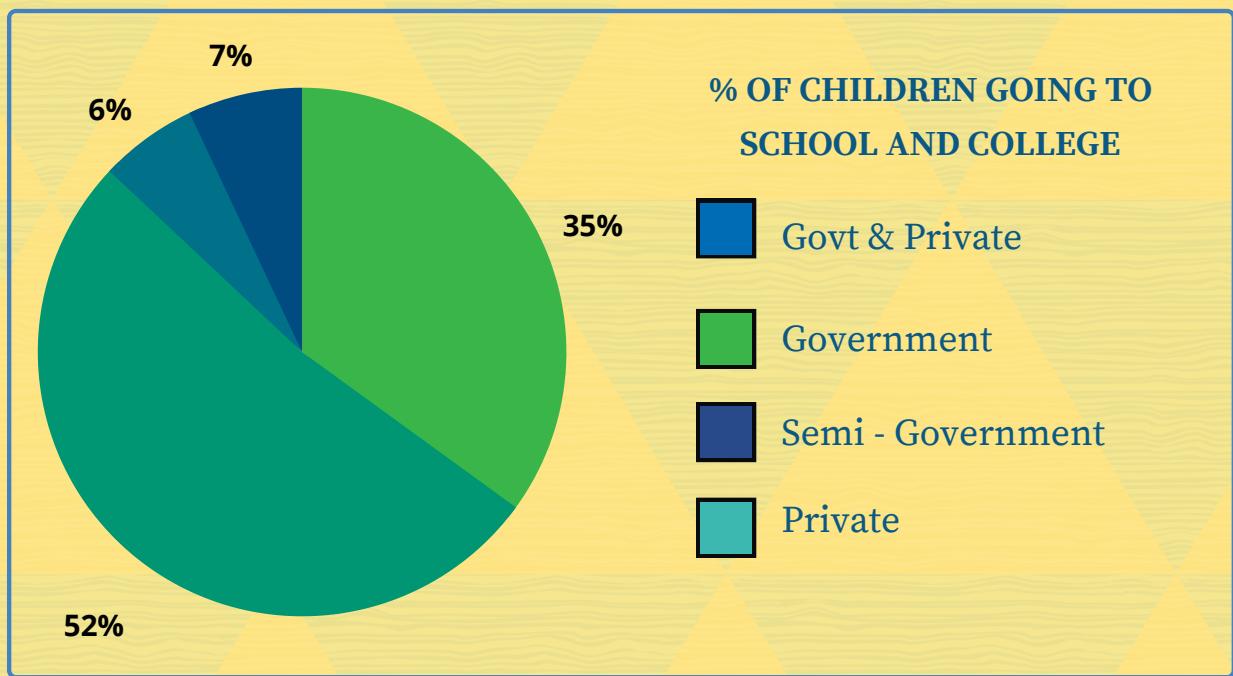
Further in the families that had health issues of the parents, the children had to take over the responsibilities of the household chores which also led to them having to discontinue their education.

e. How many students are enrolled in school and how many are enrolled in college?

The chart below represents that out of the 191 individuals currently enrolled in an educational institution, 154 (84%) children are enrolled in school and 37 (16%) are enrolled in college.



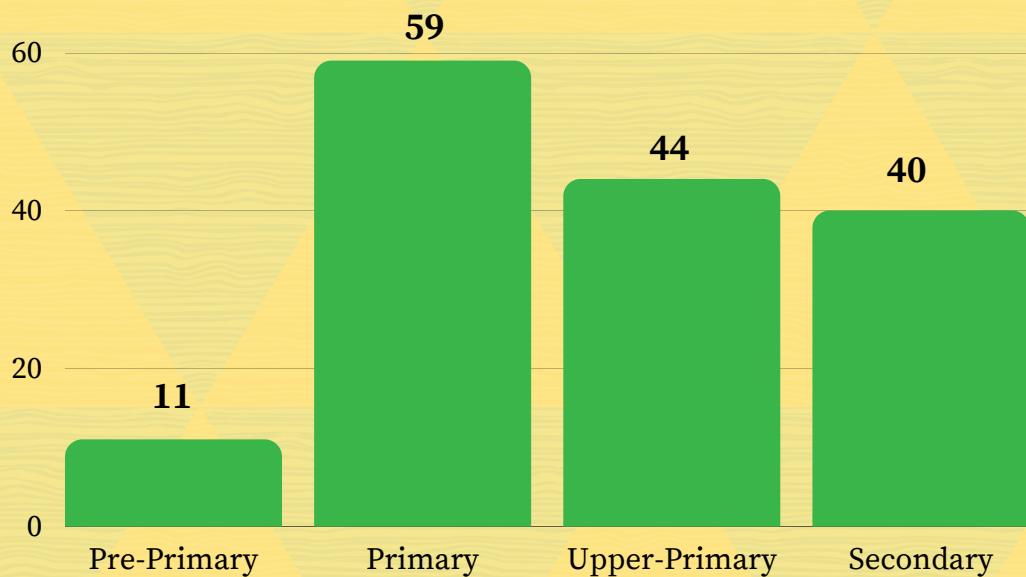
f. What type of school are the students going to?



The above chart reflects that out of 84% (154) children, 80 students (52%) are attending private school, 54 (35%) attend government schools, 11 (7%) Semi government schools. Respondents from 3 households stated that some of the children were admitted in a private and some other/ the others were admitted in a government school from the same household.

g. Which grade of the school are the children in?

THE GRADE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL



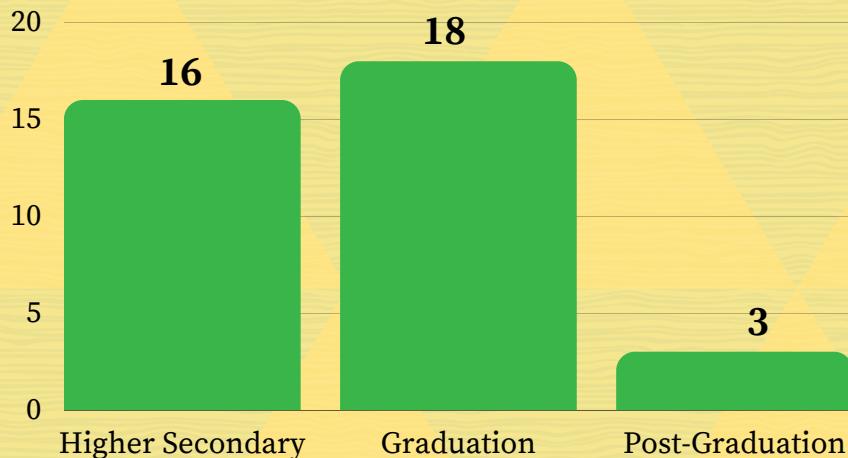
Bifurcation of the grades:

- Pre-Primary – Nursery and Kindergarten grade
- Primary – 1st to 5th Grade
- Upper Primary – 6th and 8th Grade
- Secondary – 9th and 10th Grade

The above chart highlights that the majority i.e 59 students (38%) students are in primary school, 44 students (29%) are in Upper Primary classes, 40 students (26%) are in the Secondary section of schools and 11 students (7%) are in primary sections of school.

h. Which year of the college are they studying in?

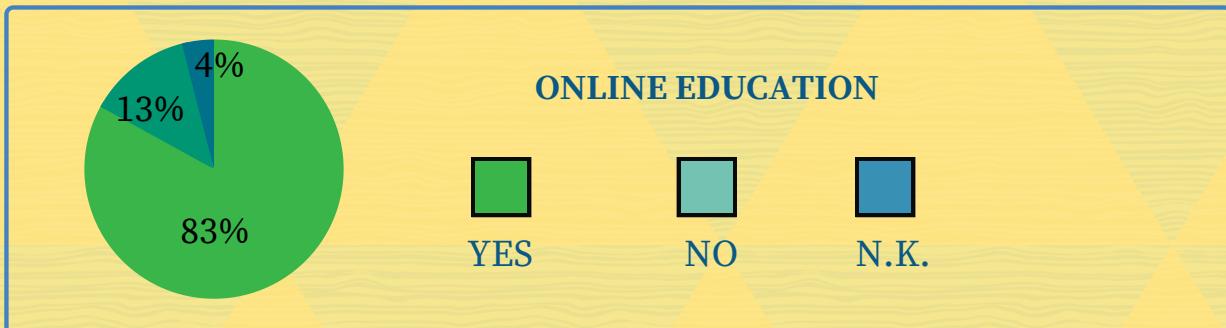
WHICH YEAR OF COLLEGE



The above chart represents that of the 37 students gaining college education, 18 students (48%) are pursuing their graduation, 16 students (43%) are completing their higher secondary education and 3 (9) students are enrolled in a post-graduation program.

Higher secondary education includes the 11th and 12th grades.

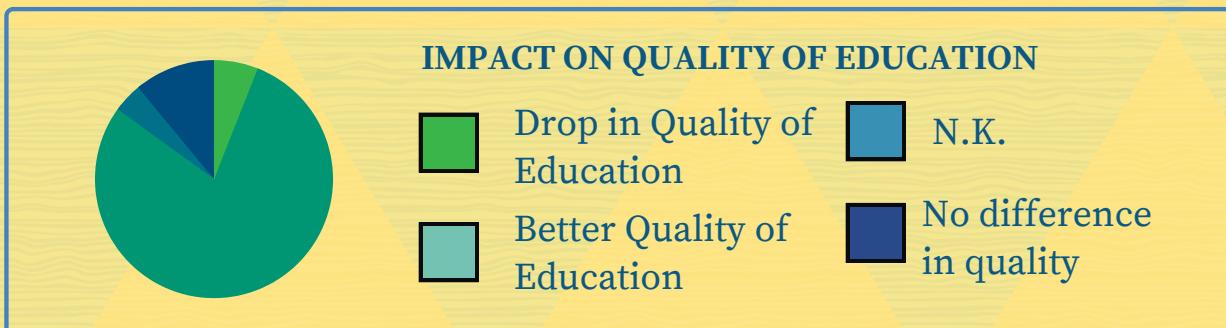
i. Online Education



The chart reflects the responses of 82 (83%) respondents who mentioned that the students in their household were receiving some form of online education from their school or college. While 13 (13%) respondents stated that the educational institution was not providing any online education. 4 (4%) respondents received were that since the students were residing in a Child Care Institution there was no method to know if they were receiving online education or not as their parents were also unaware.

The term online education encompasses online classes, receiving video recordings from the educational institution and receiving homework material from the educational institution.

j. Impact of Online education on the quality of received education



The chart reflects that the majority of the respondents i.e 71 (79%) felt that there was a drop in the quality of education. 5 (6%) respondents stated that the quality of education had increased while 10 (11%) respondents were of the opinion that the online mode of education had no impact on the quality of education.

k. Better Quality of Education

6% of the respondents felt that the quality of education was better online. The reasons for the same ranged from the helpfulness and response of the university, support in providing text books and over the call guidance as and when required. It also gave the students an opportunity to study at a time of their convenience, which helped them to continue their jobs and support the family financially.

A couple of respondents mentioned that the interest of their children in education had increased and they were securing good marks in the internal exams.

One respondent informed that the teacher had made group of 5 children and delivered lectures in order to make sure that the children understood what was being taught.

Some respondents felt that at the very least there was some kind of ongoing education instead of a complete halt in education and therefore were in support of the online education.

l. Drop in Quality of Education

86(79%) of the respondents felt that there was a drop in the quality of education, this was because, mainly the schools were not conducting online lectures or were not following a set time table that the children could follow. The respondents felt that the children were more active when they went to school and the interaction between the students and teacher were more interactive. It was also seen that the attention span of the children had reduced while studying online as they got easily distracted as soon as they missed something and did not understand what was being taught. The supervision provided by the teachers had also reduced. Online is less enriching than classroom environment as there is no peer-interaction. as the children cannot socialize with their peers. It has also been noticed that the teachers do not take online education seriously and the duration of their lectures have decreased. Further some teachers send pre-recorded videos of the lectures, because of which there has been lack of student teacher interaction. The students studying in 10th and 12th standard were more tensed and worried as they were unclear about their board exams. Further their laboratory classes are not completed, which has further tensed them.

The respondents also mentioned that as they are not highly educated or in some cases have never had any formal education, they are unable to provide academic support to their children. Further they feel that they are unable to explain the concepts to their children, which children fail to understand when teacher explains them online.

Apart from these, some technological challenges mentioned by the respondents were, students suffering from headaches due to extensive screen time, many families had just one smart phone and multiple children had their classes going on at the same time. Many children use mobile for playing games and neglect studies. As many of the respondents stay in the interior of the communities, they face network issue because of which they miss their lectures.

Further the respondents mentioned that children do not take the online education seriously and delete the homework which is sent on WhatsApp. The teachers do not check the homework, which gives the children the liberty of not taking their education seriously.

m. Challenges faced by the students:

Challenges faced from school and teachers

The respondents mentioned that lectures were not conducted on daily basis and on time, because of which their education was on hold. Also, the amount of interaction between the students and the teacher has reduced due to which there is less attention given by the children. Further few respondents informed that the younger kids did not have online classes or exams and the family has no idea if they will be promoted to the next grade. Some of the younger children that had online education forget everything they are taught.

Challenges faced due to technology

The respondents mentioned that children were suffering from headaches because of the screen time. Further issues such as lack of proper network or at times no network, fluctuation in Wi-Fi, lack of space in phone due to overloaded Mobile gallery with study materials, no money to recharging the data pack, technical issues in joining google meet and zoom platforms were highlighted. Also, the quality of the pre-recorded sessions sent by the teachers were pointed out.

Other Challenges

- Lack of access to smart phones either because parents are at work or because multiple children have to attend online lectures and the house has just one smart phone. As a result of this many children end up missing their online classes.
- Further children that are able to access online education sometimes fail to understand what is been taught and are unable to gain practical experience and exposure in areas where it is a course requirement. Many children use YouTube for extra reference in order to understand their studies better.
- The homework is sent on WhatsApp groups and there is no monitoring of the same, which results in children not taking their work seriously.
- A respondent informed that her android phone was broken due to which the children could not attend online lectures and because of lack of income she was unable to repair the phone for 5 months. Once she received her salary, she repaired her phone post which the children could continue attending the online classes and give their semester exam.
- A respondent informed that loud neighborhood noises also affects the concentration during online studies.
- Children have complained of health issues such as watery eyes, back ache, headache while studying online.

n. Challenges Faced by Parents

When the respondents were asked about the challenges they faced as parents' due to online education, their answers can be briefly categorized in to issues related to finances, technology, schools & teachers and some general challenges.

Challenges faced due to finances

The respondents mentioned about the increase in cost of maintenance of the phone with regards to repairs, recharges, purchasing new hand set. Further the families have to pay the Wi-Fi bills., purchasing data packs, many of the respondents informed that they are not able to afford smart phones due to which the children are unable to attend online lectures.

Challenges faced due to technology

Technological constraints such as Mobile devices issues, Network Issues, Issue in connecting the zoom/google or other links provided by the school.

A respondent informed that due to network issue some time the children missed their online lectures and then parents had to reach out to the teacher to understand children's study material and home work.

A couple of respondents mentioned that they did not have enough knowledge about the device and were unable to help their young children connect to the online class due to which they were missing their class, which was affecting their studies.

Challenges faced due to school or college

When asked about the status of education, many respondents informed that there were no online lectures conducted by the educational institution as a result of which children's education was on hold. They also informed that the communication on behalf of the school was poor as they did not notify the students about the syllabus, books or timetable on the phone.

The schools where they that continued to conduct lectures online, the respondents mentioned about challenges such as lack of cooperation from the school and teachers. They further informed that the teachers do not understand the issue faced by the families where there is only one device and several children who need to attend online lectures. In such situations, the teachers shout at the parents and the children for not regularly attending lectures.

A couple of respondents informed that the children were unable to understand what the teacher was teaching and there was not enough time for teacher student interaction.

The respondents also mentioned that some teachers sent a pre-recorded video but either the recorded videos were unclear or the children were not able to understand what teacher was explaining in the video. Further it was difficult for many respondents to explain to the children what the teacher was teaching in the video, as they were not very educated or had never received formal education

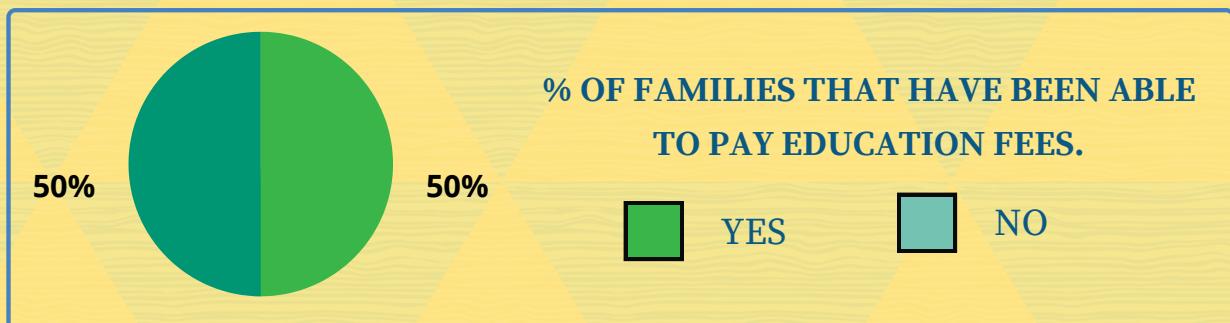
Other challenges

Many of the respondents felt that online studies and lectures were not effective for children, especially because there was lack of monitoring and assistance from the teacher.

Apart from that the parents had to make changes in their daily activities as per the timetable of the children's online class, as a result of which they had to alter many of their daily activities. Some respondents also complained that they got late to reach their work place as their timings clashed with student's online class. Many respondents mentioned that as their children are young, they have to continuously be with the child during their online class and have to keep all their other work aside.

Respondents also informed that if they do not monitor, children start playing games on the mobile phone, or watch videos.

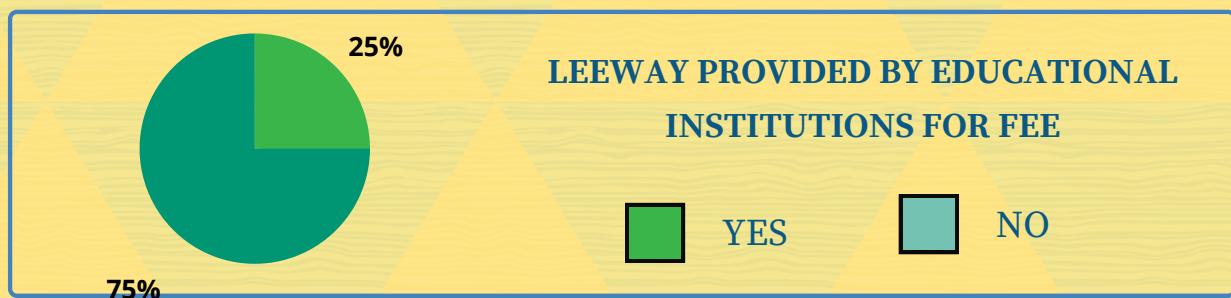
o. Payment of School/College Fees



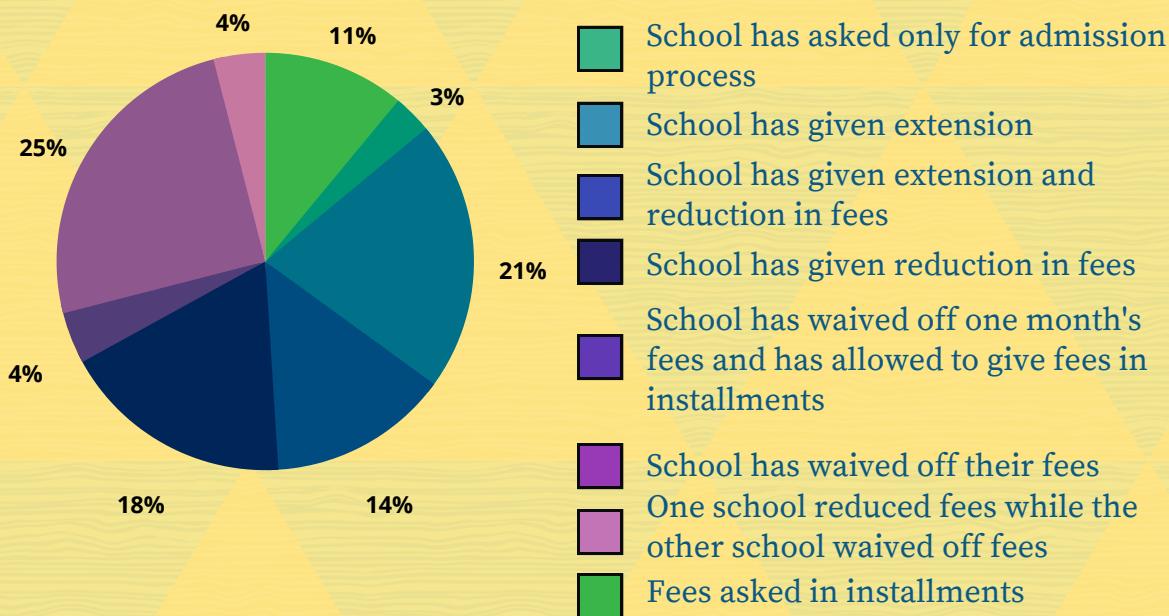
The above chart represents that attended school or college 50% respondents informed that they were able to pay the school/college fees and 50% were unable to pay the school/college fees.

Has the education institution provided any leeway (reduction in fee or extensions to pay the fee) on the fees?

The chart below informs that the majority of the respondents i.e 84 (75%) respondents informed that they were not provided any leeway on the education fees by the institution. While 28 (25%) respondents had a positive response from the education institution.



LEEWAY WAS PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL/COLLEGE FOR PAYING FEES



The above chart represents that the 28 (25%) respondents that received leeway from the education institutions informed that, the institutions provided options such as paying fees in installments, only charged the admission fees, provided extension for the last date of payment of the fees, reduction in fees and waived off fees.

In some cases, the school provided options of both waiving off one month's fees and opportunity to pay the remaining fees in installments.

What is the plan for the next academic year (2021-22)?



The above chart highlights that the majority i.e 84 (85%) respondents mentioned that they plan to continue the education of their children in the next academic year, while 11 (11%) respondents still don't know their plan. 4 (4%) respondents informed that they will discontinue the education of the children.

Why do they plan to discontinue education?

Majority of the respondents mentioned that they are planning to discontinue the education of the students as they were unable to pay their fees. There were many respondents who mentioned that even though they wished their students continued education, in the current scenario it was a financial burden for them.

A respondent informed that they were unable to secure admission in college as they were unable to pay the fees.

Many respondents also mentioned that as they had only one device at home, a couple of students had to discontinue their education.

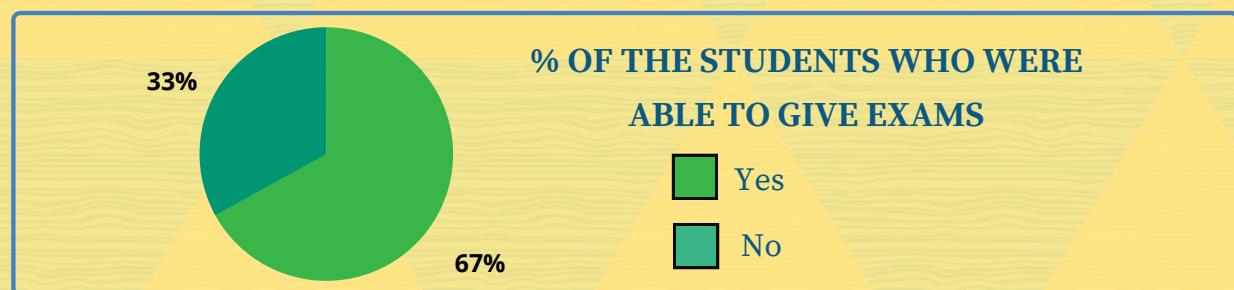
A couple of respondents informed that the students had discontinued education as they were no longer interested in studies.

A respondent informed that the student had taken a pause from her studies in order to support the family financially and would resume education once she gets into the routine after gaining employment.

Few respondents informed that they will admit their children in school and colleges once the lockdown was lifted and in-person school starts.

Were the children able to give exams?

Even though the government had announced the cancellation of exams, our experience from the field shows that some schools still conducted exams online. 67% students were able to give exams, while 33% were unable to give the exams online.

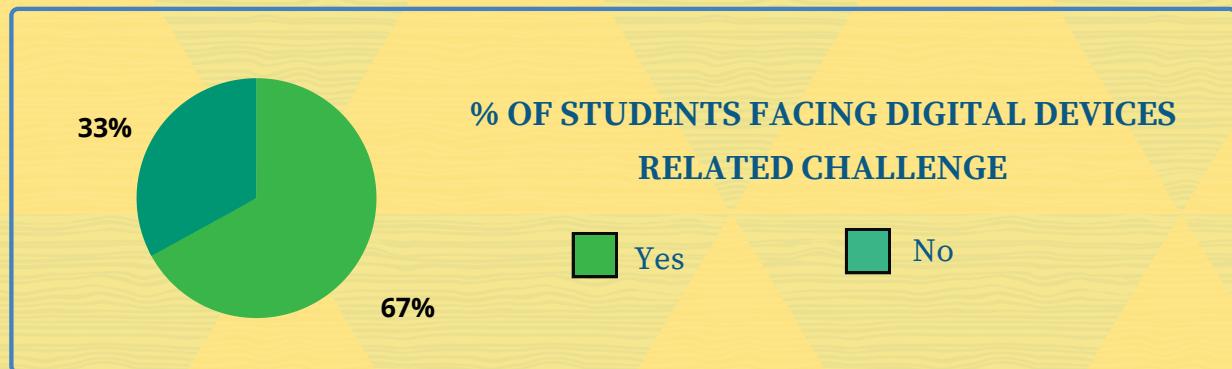


If No, why?

When asked if the children were able to give exams, majority of the respondents informed that the exams were either cancelled or postponed. While few complained that there was no information provided by the school w.r.t exams. Students studying in 10th and 12th standard, were waiting for the declaration of their exam dates by the government.

A couple of respondents informed that the children were not able to give exams as their phones had broken down or the had network connectivity issues. Few children were not allowed to give the exams as they had not paid the school fees.

Are the students and families facing any digital device related challenges while studying?



When families were asked if the students and families were facing any digital device related challenges while studying, 64% mentioned that they were; while 36% said they did not face any challenge.

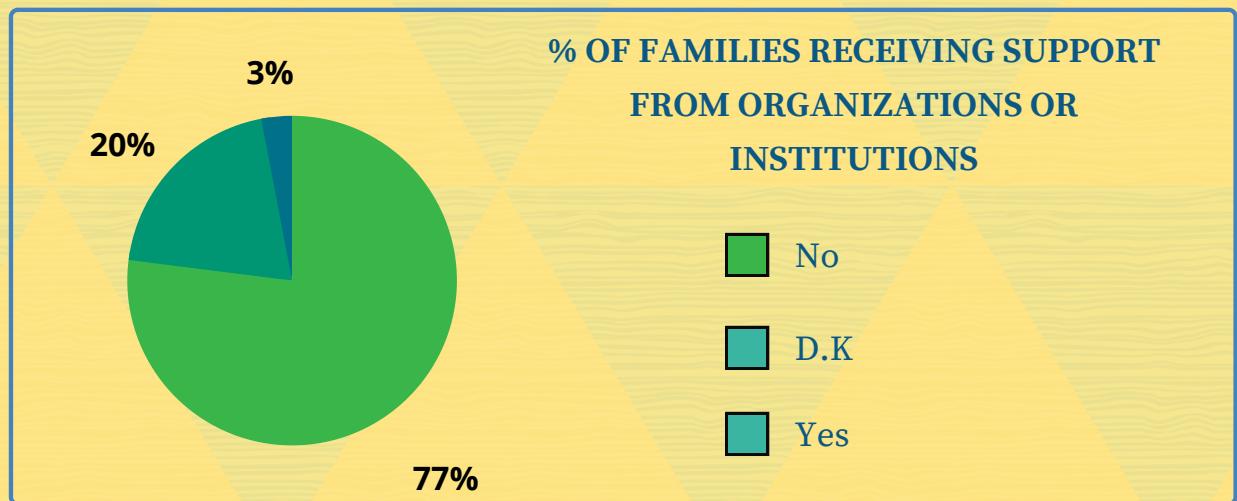
If Yes what are the challenges?

When asked about the challenges that the students were facing w.r.t digital devices, the respondents informed about a number of challenges ranging from technical glitches, phones breaking down, network issues, Wi-Fi connectivity issues, not enough storage space in the phone for study material, device hanging, mobiles running slow as a result of the amount of data stored, difficulty in connecting to the google/zoom link provided by the school/college. Financial constraints to be able to recharge the phone.

The house where there is just one device and multiple children needing access to online class, creates dispute among children.

Are you getting any kind of support from other organizations or institutes to support the education of your children?

The chart above highlights that 77% families informed that they were not getting any kind of support from other organizations or institutions. 3% mentioned they received some kind of support from the organizations and 20% did not know and therefore could not answer the question.



If yes, which organizations and institutions are supporting you?

When asked about the organizations and institutions supporting child's education, the families mentioned Prerana and Jeevan Aadhar organizations' names. A couple of families were not sure about the name of the organization that supported them.

If yes, how did they support?

The families informed that the organizations supported the family by recharging the phones, providing ration and repairing the phones so that their children could continue online educations.

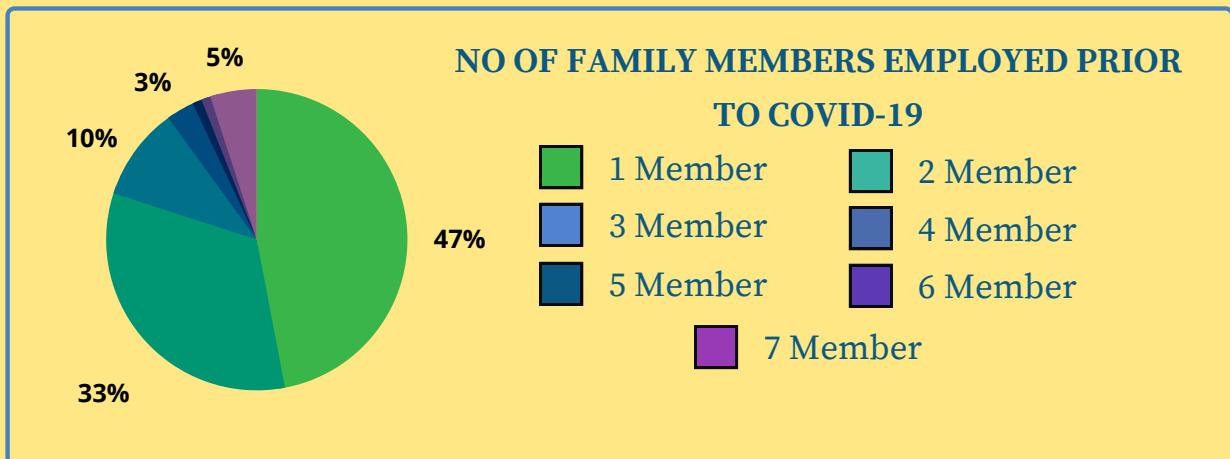
In some cases, the organization supported and guided the families to reach out to the education institution and request them to provide some kind of leeway for paying the fees.

In couple of cases the organizations also paid the fees where the families were in no position to pay the school fees.

3. Employment Status

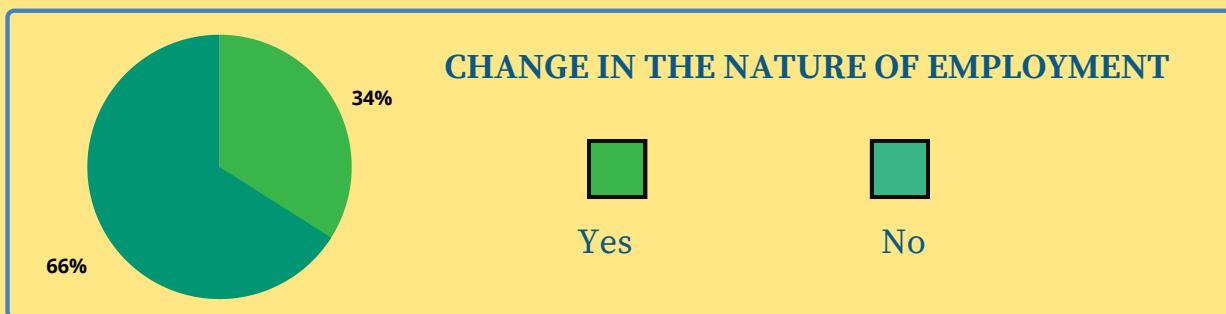
a. How many family members were working prior to COVID?

The chart above represents is to understand if there was any change in the nature of employment. As of May 2021, 71 (66%) of the members mentioned that there was no change in the current nature of their job. While 36 (34%) mentioned that there was change in the nature of their job.



b. Did your nature of employment change?

The chart above represents is to understand if there was any change in the nature of employment. As of May 2021, 71 (66%) of the members mentioned that there was no change in the current nature of their job. While 36 (34%) mentioned that there was change in the nature of their job.



c. If yes, what was the change?

When asked about the change in the nature of employment, the respondents informed that the family members had lost jobs, businesses had stopped, there was decreased or increased workload. Some of the respondents informed that they had to find new places of employment.

A respondent was a lawyer, but because the courts were shut and there was no other source of income, he had started selling mangoes.

Another respondent was fired from the job and he had started selling Bhangar (selling scarp material/ pre-used material) and China products in his locality. A couple of respondents whose income had stopped started working at construction sites, worked as porters or started tiffin service.

d. Why was there a change in the nature of your job?

When the respondents were asked the reason behind the change in the nature of their job, majority of them mentioned it was due to the pandemic and the resultant lockdown. As a result of the pandemic and the resultant lockdown, the respondents and their family members lost their jobs, their businesses shut, the daily wage earners were not getting any work.



A couple of respondents mentioned that they had to start selling tea, mangoes, fruits and vegetables, started driving auto rickshaws, started working at construction sites as their permanent job/business was adversely affected.

Many of the respondents are still awaiting to hear about the status of their current jobs, but their employees have not got back.

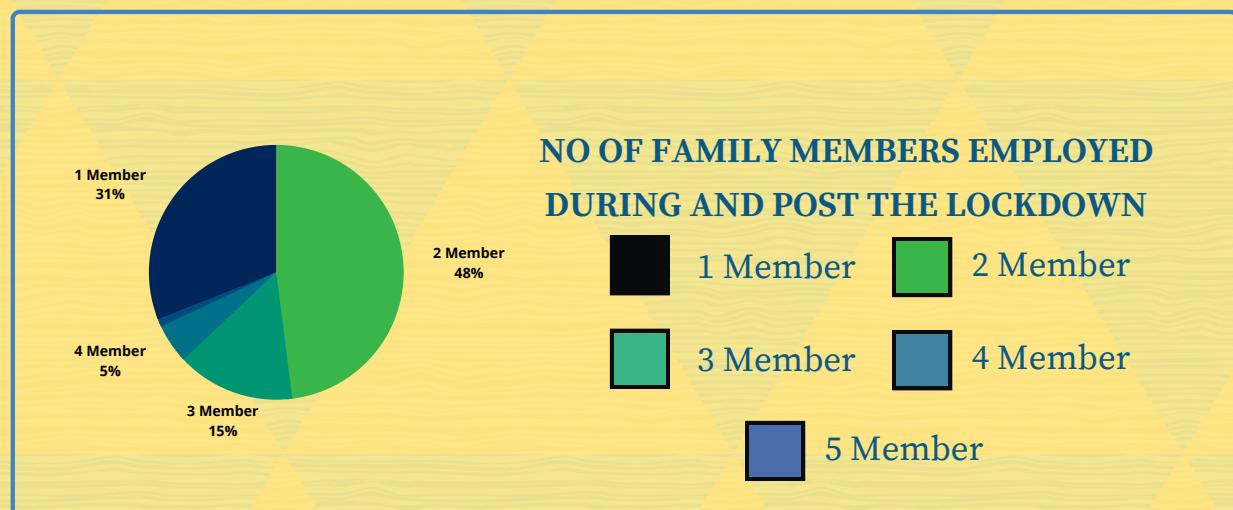
A respondent who used to work at the government hospital as a cleaning staff, resigned from his job as he feared contracting the COVID-19 virus. He was worried as he was the only earning member in the family of 5 and if he was exposed to COVID the family would suffer.

e. Current nature of employment of the members?

The chart represents the current nature of employment of the members, where 82 (79%) were salaried and 22 (21%) were self-employed.



f. How many family members were employed during and post the lockdown?

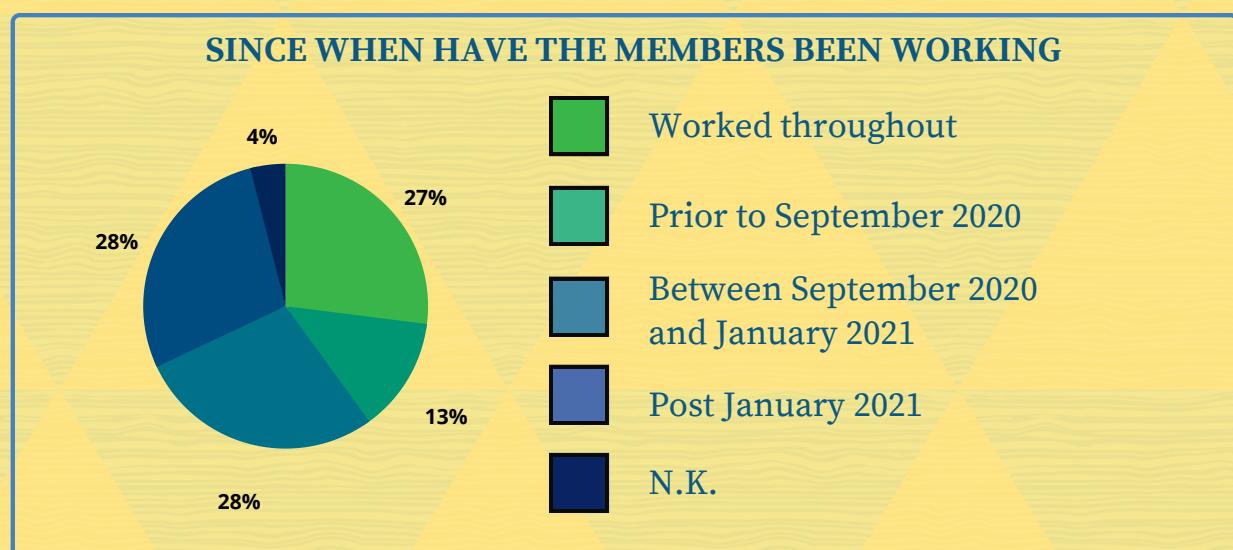


The above chart represents that 52 (48%) respondents mentioned that there was atleast 1 family member that had a job, 16(15%) mentioned that there were 2 family members that had a job, 5(5%) mentioned that 3 family members had a job and 1(1%) mentioned that 5 family members have a job.

It is important to highlight that 33(31%) respondents mentioned that nobody in their family had a job.

g. Since when did family members began working?

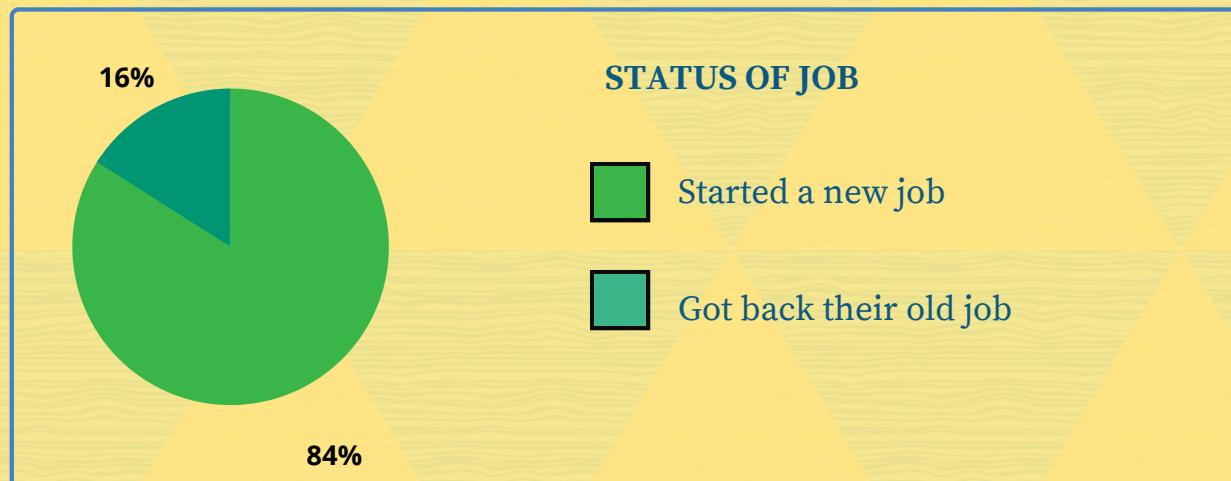
The chart below represents that 28(27%) members worked throughout, 14(13%) worked prior to September, 29(28%) started working between September 2020 and January 2021, 29(28%) joined work post January 2021 and 4(4%) were unknown as the members could not recollect when they had started working.



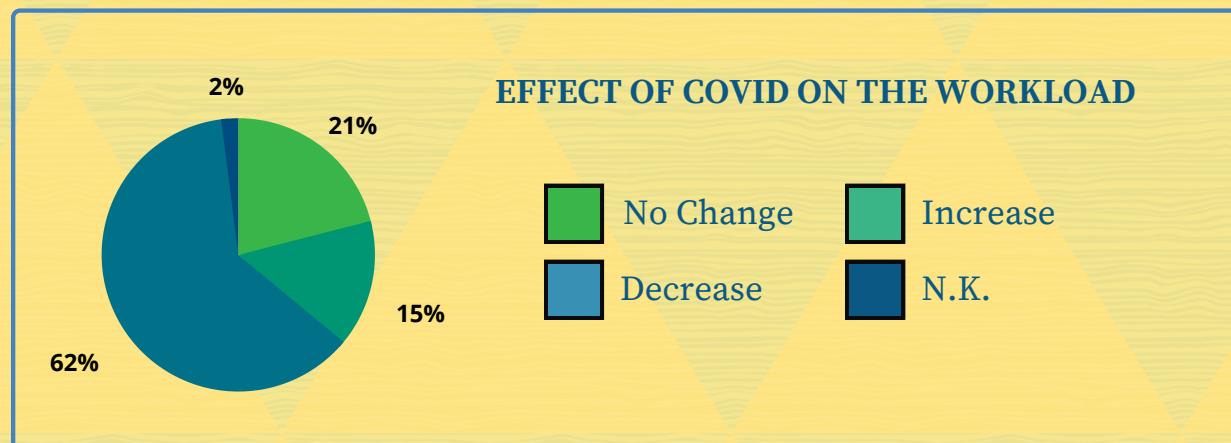
h. If working for somebody:

How many had taken up new job and how many had rejoined the same work place?

The chart reflects that 69 (84%) members had got back their old jobs and 13 (16%) members had joined new job.



How has COVID affected their workload?

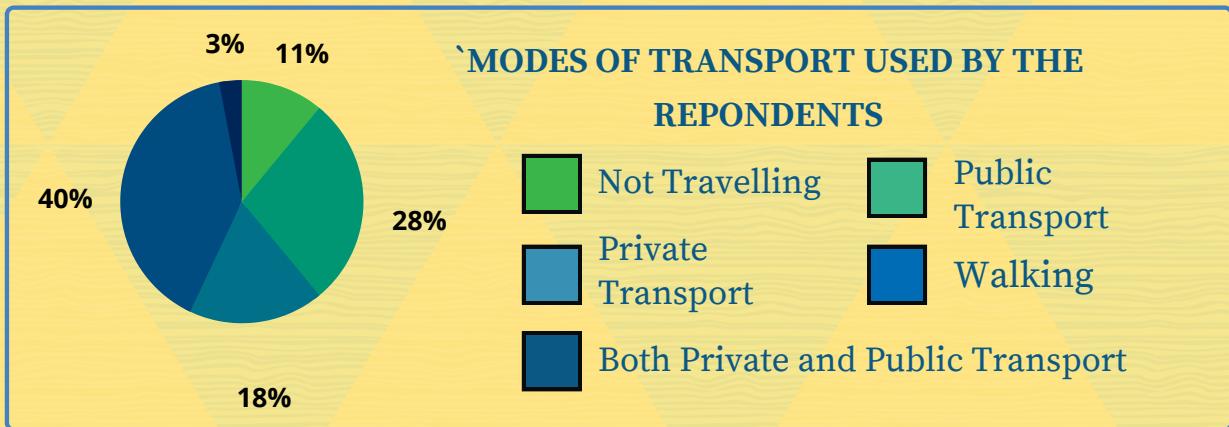


The above chart represents the effect of COVID-19 on the work load of the working members. 51(62%) felt there was decrease in workload, 17 (21%) felt there was no change in the workload, 12 (15%) felt there was increase in workload 2 (2%) did not know.

How has COVID-19 affected their income?

The above chart highlights the effect of COVID-19 on the income of the family. 51(62%) respondents mentioned that there was a decrease in the income, 27(33%) mentioned there was no change, 2(3%) mentioned there was increase in the income and 2(2%) respondents were unsure about the effect on family income.

How do you travel to work?



The above chart represents the mode of transport used by the members while travelling to work. 33(40%) walk to their work place, 23(28%) use public transport, 15(18%) use private transport, 9(11%) do not travel as they stay close to the work place or at their work place and 2(3%) use both public and private transport.

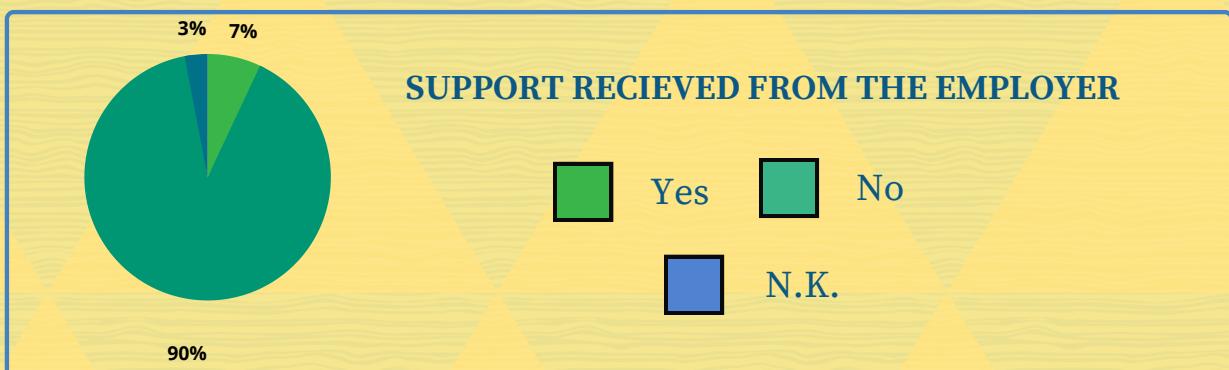
What precautions do you use while travelling?

100% of the respondents informed that their family members were using basic precautions while travelling in public transport such as keeping the masks on, frequently washing their hands or sanitizing them, wearing gloves.

Few also informed that they take bath once they are home and keep a check on their oxygen level and body temperature.

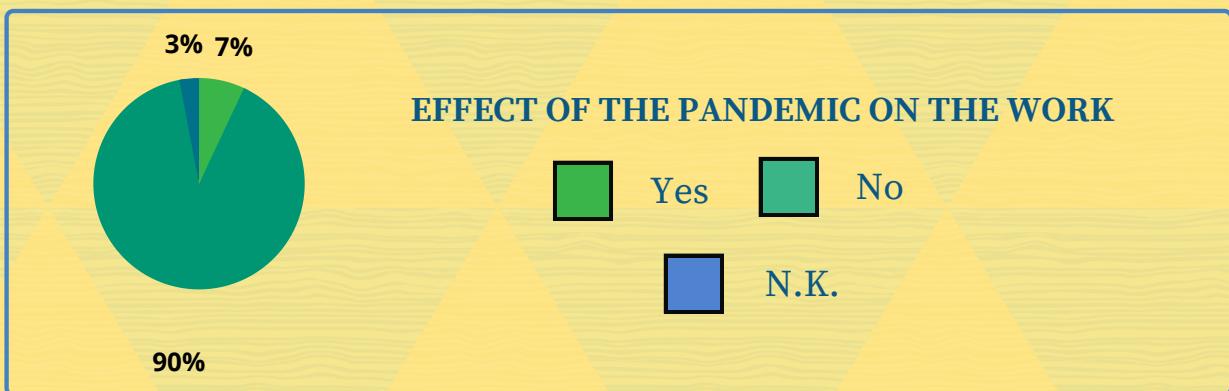
Have you received any support from the employer? If yes what?

The following chart mentioned that majority of the employees i.e 72 (90%) did not receive any support from their employer. 6 (7%) received some kind of support from their employer and 2 (3%) respondents were not sure if the working members in the family had received any support.



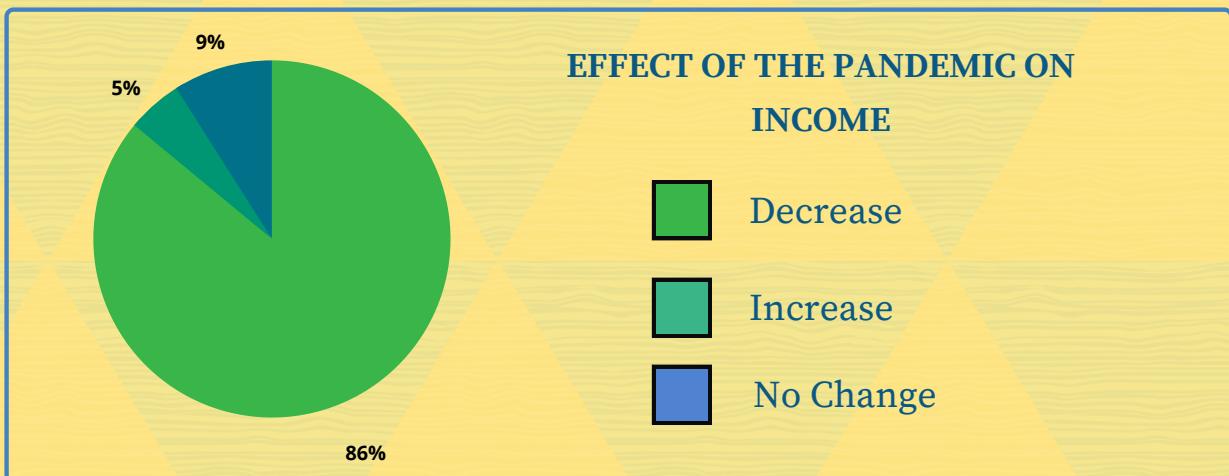
i. If Self Employed

If yes, has COVID affected their work?



The above chart represents the effect of pandemic on work of the Self-Employed members. 18 (82%) informed that there was decrease in work, 3(14%) informed that there was no change and 1 (4%) informed that they were unaware if there were any changes in the working member's job.

How has COVID affected your income?



The chart above reflects how COVID had affected their income, 19 (86%) informed that their income had decreased, 2 (9%) informed that there was no change, and 1 (5%) informed that there was an increase in income.

How do you manage all the expenses for your business?

The respondents informed that they continued to run their business from the income that they made out of the business, few informed that the borrowed money from friends and relatives.

Many of them who have their own micro business informed that they are not making any profits due to which its hand to mouth survival. Few of them have also mortgage their jewelry in order to continue running their business.

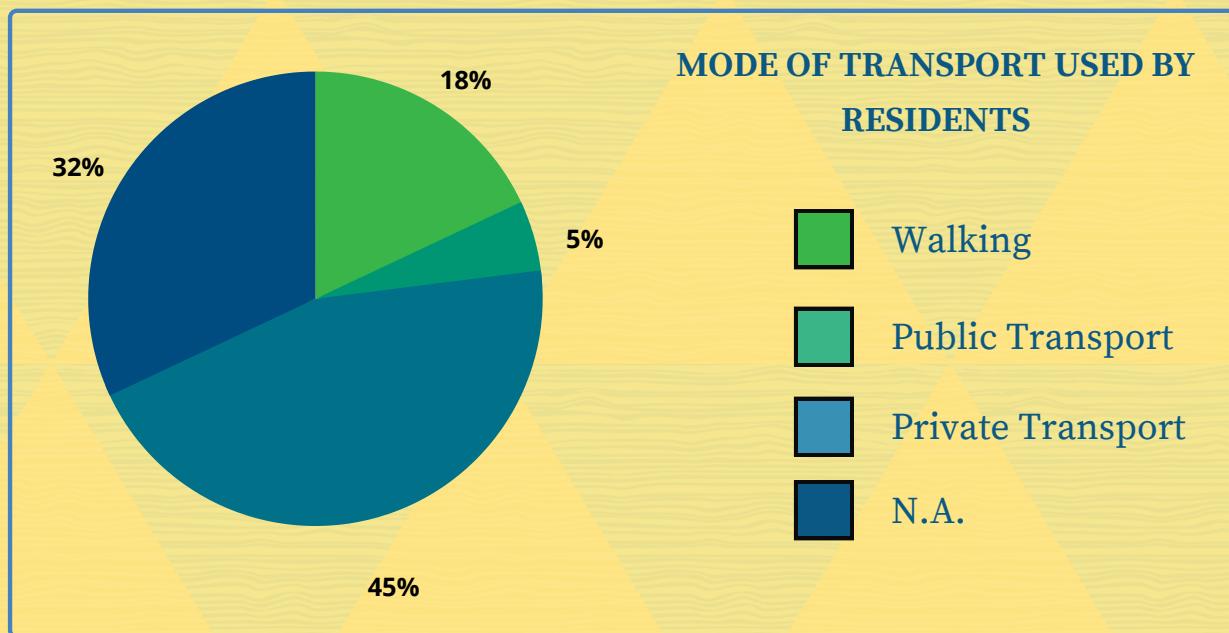
The respondents that drive auto rickshaw somehow/ barely manage to cover money for the CNG bill, but do not make a lot of profit to take the money back home.

A respondent mentioned that “We manage to procure some ingredients to make the Idlis. As business has decreased a lot, the quantity of Idlis made are also less. They set their stall only 3 days a week now.”

A few respondents mentioned that they had to close down their existing business and had to start selling fruit and vegetables in order to sustain their livelihood.

How do you travel to work?

10 (45%) members travel to work in Private transport, 4 (18%) members go to work walking, 7 (32%) members stay at their work place and 1 (5%) use public transport.



What precautions do you use while travelling?

Majority i.e 95% of the respondents mentioned that they follow the basic precautions that need to be followed while stepping out of the house during COVID. Precautions like wearing mask, face shield, regularly washing hands, using sanitizer and following government protocols in terms of lockdown.

5% respondents mentioned that their office is next to their house and therefore they don't have to travel as such.

Have you supported your employees during the lockdown?

When asked if they had supported their employees during the lockdown by providing some levy, 100% of the respondents mentioned that they were unable to support their employees in anyway.

4. Perception of the families to the measures being taken to tackle the pandemic

a. How are you managing daily expenses like ration, rent, electricity, water bill etc?

Some of the families admitted that they have been unable to manage their expenses as they are left with no sources of income. Among those who have some steady income, the daily expenses are managed through their monthly income from single or multiple sources. Families that are supported through daily wage work manage their day-to-day expenses depending on the wage they earn each day. Families that have additional property that they have been able to rent, such as a house, have been able to manage their expenses through the monthly rent that they receive. Families without a steady income source have tried making ends meet through engaging in different jobs. In some instances where the family has been unable to pay their bills on time, they have asked and received some extension for the payment. Certain families chose to take loans from micro-finance banks while some others had to pawn jewelry in order to manage expenses.

In many cases, families have turned to the community for help, trying to manage their expenses by borrowing money from friends, relatives, neighbours or other acquaintances. Some families have borrowed goods from the shopkeepers or have received assistance from their employers. Some neighbours have shared their food with the families in order to help them manage food-related expenses. Some families have received free vegetables from their vegetable vendor friends. Some families have received assistance from NGOs. Among families that have school-going children, some of the schools have distributed ration to the children. In some instances, the family has received or purchased ration such as rice and dal in bulk from their villages. Some families chose to bring ration and essentials home from their villages.

b. How are you managing daily expenses like ration, rent, electricity, water bill etc?

The impact of the lockdown on the families' income has posed many challenges. The families that are supported by a sole earning member report that the earning is not adequate to meet all expenses. Furthermore, irregular or delayed income and exhausted savings add to the obstacles faced by the families. In cases where the sole earning member lives away from the family, there is a further delay in being able to meet all expenses. Food vendors' businesses have been affected by the lockdown restrictions and their incomes further decreased during Ramzan. Some families have been unable to receive rent for their houses or shops. In cases where the family's source of income is tuition classes, the non-payment of tuition fees has decreased the family's income. Increased cost of essential commodities has added to the families' woes.

In cases where the families have no sources of income or have insufficient income, they are forced to prioritize certain expenses over others. As a result, the bills or rent that they are unable to pay keep mounting. In some cases, the family's electricity and water supply had been cut off due to non-payment of dues. Some families managed to negotiate payment in installments or an extension for payment. School fees were also left unpaid as the income was affected. Eviction by the landlord also added to a family's stressors. The family also reported having to go hungry on some days due to insufficient money.

Families that borrowed money from friends and relatives are unable to return the same, thereby adding to their burden. Some families have gone into debt as they had to borrow large amounts of money for the COVID treatment of a family member. Illness-related costs posed a further challenge, especially if it was the earning member who had fallen sick. In cases where the earning member had been a senior citizen who lost their job, there is some hesitancy in looking for a new job due to their increased susceptibility to COVID.

c. Are the families planning to migrate in & out of Mumbai?

99% of the families do not plan to migrate out of Mumbai. However, 1% of the family wants to migrate out of Mumbai once the lockdown ends. The family wishes to migrate as they are not able to sustain themselves in Mumbai because of lockdown and pandemic; as there is no source of income.

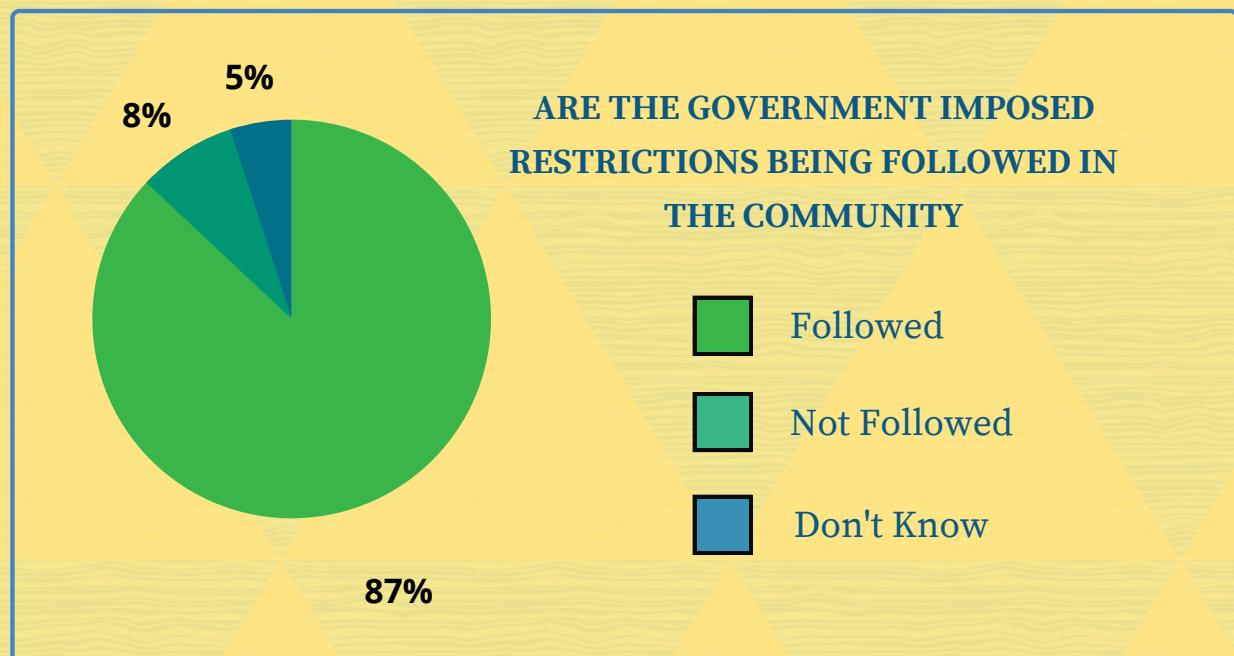
d. How do you think the new restrictions imposed in the month of April 2021 and rise in cases will impact your daily life?

Most families fear that the new restrictions will further impact their livelihoods and worsen job prospects. Loss of jobs, inability to find employment, decrease in work and salary or wages were all reported as contributing towards the increasing financial burden. Some feared that their income would halt completely. In cases where a member of the family had just found employment after graduating, they were left waiting as their jobs were put on hold. The families also worried that their mobility will be further restricted, making work-related travel difficult, especially in cases where one used public transport like the local trains. Those engaged in daily wage labour were left without any livelihood due to the closure of construction sites. Families whose livelihoods were dependent on the rent they received were worried they would not find tenants and about non-payment of rent. Furthermore, those with families affected by COVID were worried about the cost of treatment as well as further decrease in employment.

Families that were self-employed or had their own businesses were worried that the lockdown would impact business or even completely shut it down. For instance, vegetable vendors were harassed by police imposing lockdown restrictions, those employed as domestic workers feared losing work as apartment buildings would not allow them inside, those taking tuitions were affected by non-payment of fees, etc. Some families reported that they had just begun to earn a stable income again after the last lockdown. They feared that the new restrictions will further impact their livelihoods and undo any progress they may have made and that it may take them another couple of years to become financially stable again.

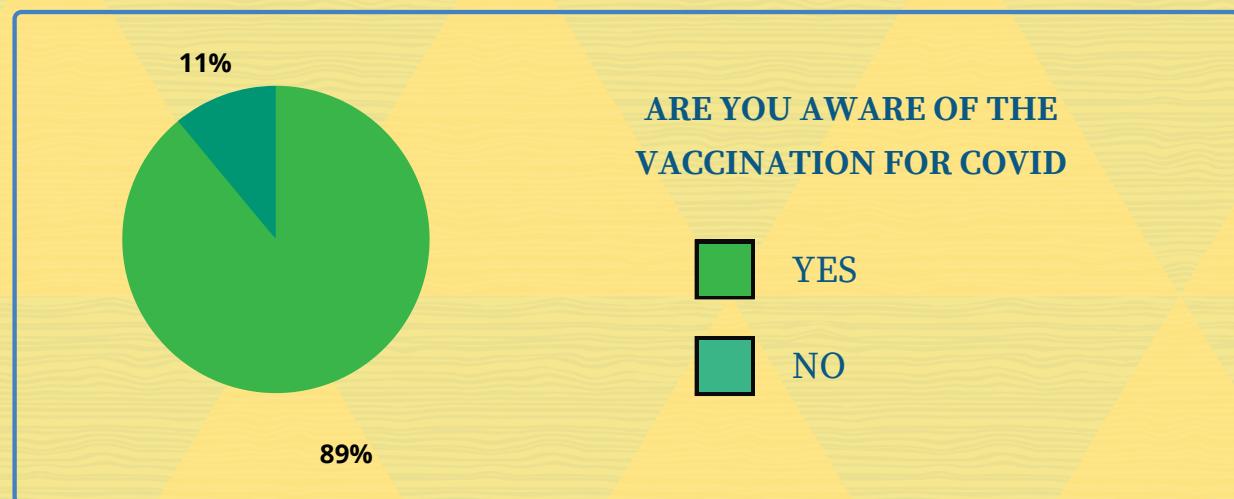
Apart from income and livelihood, other issues raised included the fear of illness and infection. There were also worries regarding the continuation of children's education and the lack of practical exposure in higher studies. Families that were unable to access online education feared that their children may have to skip another year of schooling if schools do not re-open. Some families reported that they feared they would not even be able to have access to meals a day.

e. As per the new guidelines, are the government-imposed restrictions being followed in your localities?



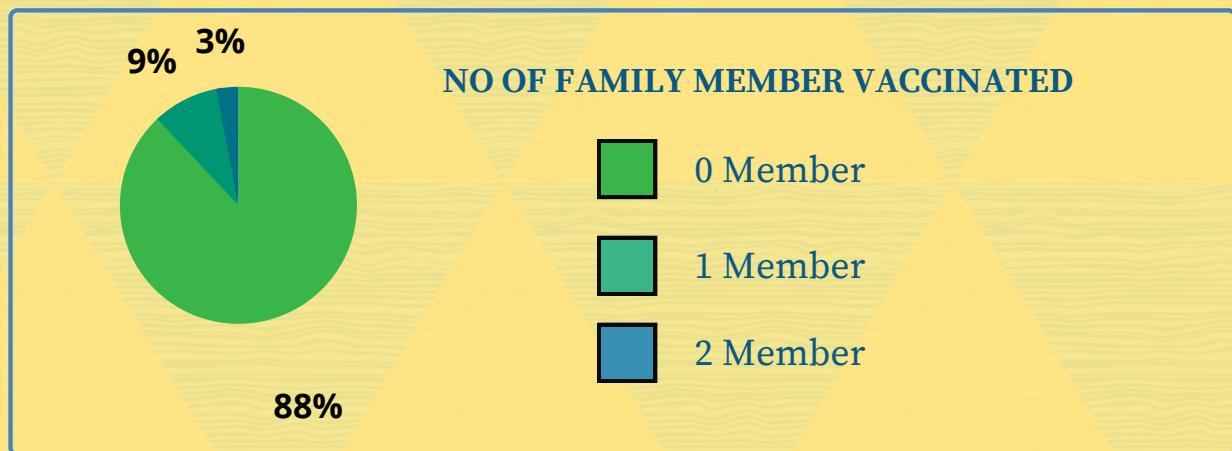
The above chart highlights that 87% of the families informed that the government imposed restrictions were being followed in their localities, 8% families informed that they weren't followed and 5% families weren't sure as they had not stepped out of their house.

f. Are you aware about the vaccination for COVID?



The above chart represents that there majority of the families i.e 89% were aware about the vaccination for the COVID-19, however 11% were still unaware. During the data collection, the team updated these families about the COVID-19 vaccine and the procedure to register for the same.

[How many family members have been vaccinated for COVID?](#)



The above chart explains that even though majority of the families were aware about the vaccine, at the time of data collection in the month of May-June 2021 88% had still not got their dose. 9% of the families had 1 member vaccinated and 3% families had 2 members vaccinated.

What are their thoughts on vaccination?

A number of families confirmed that they had adequate information about the COVID vaccines and were willing to take it. The challenges they faced were the glitches in the online portal, unavailability of vaccine slots and over-crowded vaccination centres. Some reported a little fear of needles, but admitted that they were willing to get inoculated in spite of it. They believed that everyone should get vaccinated so as to reduce the number of deaths and improve immunity. Some of them even suggested door-to-door vaccination drives and vaccinations for children. While some family members had received their first dose, most were yet waiting for vaccinations to begin for those below 45 years of age. Some families were worried about the shortage of vaccines. Some families, while willing to take the jab, were still confused and/or fearful as they did not have reliable information regarding its efficacy and side effects. In one case, speaking to the doctor was also unhelpful. Some were fearful because they had heard that the vaccine could make even a seemingly fit individual fall sick or get COVID. Some of the families were waiting for outreach by health workers for vaccination drives, and some did not know the online process of registration and booking vaccine slots.

Some individuals were skeptical about taking the vaccine as they believed they may have to stay at home for an extended period after vaccination, which may affect their employment prospects. Others were unsure due to the rumors and mixed information they had received.

A small number of respondents were entirely unaware of the availability of vaccinations. As it was new information for them, some seemed hopeful on learning about it while others seemed skeptical. Many respondents admitted that they did not have enough information in order to make a decision. Some respondents said they were waiting to see if their relatives/friends who had taken the vaccine experienced any ill-effects before getting inoculated themselves.

Many of the families interviewed said that they were not willing to get vaccinated. They were doubtful of its efficacy and rumours about vaccine-related deaths had made them fearful. Some respondents with pre-existing health conditions were worried that the vaccine would not suit everyone and may cause complications.

Some admitted that they had no faith in the vaccines and believed that they would regret taking it in case something untoward were to happen after taking it. They preferred letting the disease take its natural course. Seeing neighbours and acquaintances experience side effects after getting vaccinated had scared them. Some families believed they would continue to remain safe by taking precautions like they currently do. In certain cases, the family believed God would protect them and thus did not wish to get inoculated.

Any comments or suggestions

Most families reported inadequate income as one of the challenges that led to issues such as shortage of ration and essentials, mounting electricity and water bills, and the inability to pay rent. One of the families reported that they had exhausted their deposit money and were still unable to pay for rent and utilities. Another family spoke about their fear that the water and electricity supply would be cut off due to non-payment of dues. Having made promises to pay later and asking for extensions, they did not know how and when they would be able to pay off all the dues. One of the families pointed out that while they took as many precautions as possible, COVID essentials such as masks and sanitisers were expensive too. Lack of employment options further added to the families' stress. One of the respondents said he felt helpless due to his unemployment. He said that having a job would alleviate all the other issues. Some families even asked the organization for their assistance in finding jobs, procuring ration and arranging for fees.

Families with school and college-going children reported financial struggles when it came to paying fees. While they wished to continue studying, inadequate finances were a major setback. One family spoke about how they were pressurized by the school authorities to buy books from the school despite having explained their financial situation. They complained about it to the police, but it was not of much help. The school had even threatened that the non-payment of fees would impact the child's academic record. Other families had tried to negotiate extensions for fee payment. The online mode of studies also proved to be an obstacle, with one family reporting that their child could visit the balwadi when there were no restrictions but is currently unable to access online education. Another challenge that came up was also the children's inability to concentrate on online studies.

Some respondents spoke about how the COVID precautions were not being followed in their localities. Among the violations reported were refusal for vaccines, stepping out without a valid reason and keeping shops discreetly open after the stipulated hours. Fear of illness was also reported by one of the families residing in Nashik, where the increasing death toll in hospitals had caused them to lose faith in the medical system. This anxiety of putting oneself and one's family at risk of infection also impacted social life. One of the respondents said that she would interact with very few people outside of her home as she rarely stepped out. The respondent also shared that she wished to engage in social service to help those in need but was unable to do so due to the fear of infection.

Other challenges faced included the restrictions on travel that prevented families from using the train. This impacted their commute to work, causing one of the families to lose a month's salary. In one of the instances, the respondent reported feeling divided between staying in Mumbai and migrating back to her village. While she felt there would be many more employment opportunities for her in the village, she was obligated to stay in the city due to her daughter's campus placement. The effect of the lockdown on people's sense of dignity was also seen. One family responded that their child felt embarrassed when the neighbors gave them food, asking "have we become poor?". The family reported that the child even told them he was okay with going hungry instead of having to see his family ask others for food.

5. Perception of children wrt to Online Education and their experiences during the lockdown

a. How are you feeling about online education?

A large number of children reported that online classes were not being conducted. In one instance, extra classes such as scholarship class were also not being conducted. Among the children who were able to attend online school, many reported that they did not like it. They compared it to the offline mode, saying the latter was better. Due to the online mode of education, there was trouble comprehending what was taught. They also found it difficult to concentrate during online classes, especially if there were more than three classes throughout the day. One of the students also reported that she was left with no time for leisure activities, as most of her day was occupied with school. The children also said that they experienced a communication gap in the online medium and that the teacher is unable to pay attention to all the students. However, they recognized that online classes were the only option of schooling currently available. One of the respondents also spoke about network issues and problems with the device, that added to the challenges they experienced. Another respondent said that they were unhappy with online classes as they could only study theory and no practicals.

Most students, even among those who reportedly liked the online medium, said that they missed going to school and interacting with friends. They also missed sports activities that took place in school. Among those who liked the online mode of studies, it was seen that they were able to understand what was being taught. In one instance, the student was also able to visit the school on multiple occasions to ask for help with studies. One of the respondents also said that they preferred online exams as they asked multiple choice questions (MCQs). Respondents also said that online classes saved the time spent in travelling to and from college and that it was a much better option for those students who worked part-time.

b. What would you change in the current mode of education?

Among the suggested changes, improving the student-teacher interaction was a common suggestion. A student suggested increasing the number of classes. The students also reported that they would like their classes to be more interactive and creative. Some students also suggested using mediums like Zoom and video calling for conducting classes. Another common suggestion was that of decreasing disturbance on both the students' and teachers' sides, by reducing the number of interruptions by family members and by eliminating any background noise. Some students suggested video recording lectures and even uploading them to YouTube, so that they can be conveniently accessed by the students. Suggestions also included having weekly doubt-solving sessions.

One of the suggestions received was pertaining to a reduction in fees, saying that the school must charge fees only for the online classes and not for other facilities that are not being accessed currently by the students. While one student proposed having offline classes for certain subjects, some others proposed switching back to offline schooling entirely. Some other respondents said they had no suggestions, while one of the respondents interviewed was too young to understand the question.

c. What are the challenges faced by you while attending the school online?

The commonly reported challenges include facing network issues and problems with the device. Many students also shared that they were unable to understand the concepts taught in class. One student added that there was nobody at home either who could help them with studies. Insufficient class time was one of the factors that affected the students' comprehension of the subject matter. One of the students reported that their online class lasted only for an hour following which all the homework was sent to the students on WhatsApp. Thus, the student was unable to understand what was being taught. Another respondent shared that in a 45-minute online class, most of the time was wasted in taking attendance. Some students also reported trouble navigating the online medium and facing technical difficulties such as having trouble logging in.

Among other challenges reported, one student shared that due to the background noise at his end as all the family members are home, it was difficult to understand the instructions given by the teacher. Similarly, repeated interruptions by family members was also an issue that caused disruption. One student spoke about how it became difficult to understand anything as all the students in class spoke at the same time. Lack of enough devices was another challenge that came up, especially in families where more than one child had online lectures. Sharing of the device was especially difficult when both siblings had classes at the same time, due to which one of the siblings would end up missing class.

Other challenges that came up included irregularities in lecture timings, as the teachers had additional responsibilities. A couple of respondents also reported experiencing headaches due to the prolonged exposure to the screen. Some students also said that they were unable to concentrate. Financial challenges were also reported by one respondent, who specified that they were unable to recharge their phone. Some of the younger respondents were unable to provide an answer.

d. What are the new interests/hobbies that you discovered in the last one year?

The respondents shared a range of new activities that they had engaged in over the past year. This included learning to cook, stitch and apply mehendi. A couple of respondents shared that they spent time practicing dance. One of the respondents also said she liked drama and recorded short videos of her acting. Drawing, painting, arts and craft were also among the other hobbies that some of the respondents shared. One of the respondents shared that she started learning hair styling in the past year, while another had begun to help in household chores.

A couple of respondents reported learning computers and applications like Visual Basic and MS Excel. One of the respondents shared that they had started reading stories on a story-telling application, while another respondent shared that she had begun to read English books to improve her language skills. Two of the respondents also shared that they had tried to improve their handwriting in the past year. One of the respondents said that she was learning to ride the scooter during the lockdown.

Some of the respondents were very young and hence unable to answer, while the responses of some other respondents are not known. A couple of respondents said that they had discovered nothing of interest in the past year.

e. Are there any safety concerns you are facing? If yes, What are those?

While some of the respondents had no major safety concerns, some others were unable to answer the question. Among the respondents who were experiencing certain problems, a commonly reported concern was relating to COVID. Some families were fearful of stepping outside due to the rising number of COVID cases. Another commonly reported concern was that the younger siblings' education may be affected. One of the respondents reported that she was concerned about when schools would re-open, while another respondent shared that she was concerned about when the pandemic would finally end. One of the respondents shared that she feared being implicated in her tenant's suicide. She explained that their tenant, who was renting a portion of her house, had previously attempted suicide over rent and threatened to blame her for the same.

6) Are there any safety concerns you are facing? If yes, What are those?

Some of the children could not be reached in order to administer the survey questionnaire. While some of the children were unavailable as they were visiting their village, while some were occupied or unwilling to speak. One of the children living in a CCI also could not be reached.

Among the children that were able to respond to the survey, it was found that education-related expenses were a major challenge. While one child had to drop out of school, another was unable to attend online classes due to non-payment of fees. A couple of children and/or their siblings were also unable to secure admissions due to financial constraints. The younger child in a balwadi was missing out on education as he did not receive any homework. Another respondent said that the children who were going to school were unable to concentrate and did not study.

In one of the instances, a family member of the respondent was pursuing her higher studies (TYBAF). While she had secured a scholarship and the college had provided installments and loans, the financial burden was still high. In addition, she felt that the quality of education was impacted due to limited interaction with professors and absence of group learning. Limited resources such as having to share only one phone with her husband causes the student to miss many classes. The student is currently juggling between college, preparatory classes for MBA and police academy, and finding a part-time job for herself to manage expenses.

Some concerns came up regarding the income and livelihood of the family. A couple of respondents said that finding employment was one of the challenges they faced, as their work had stopped due to the pandemic. In one instance, the sole earning member had to move to his village while leaving his family in Mumbai, as he was unable to find work in the city. One of the respondents also said it was difficult to manage expenses as the prices of essentials were rising, too. The lack of income and/or the pandemic also affected access to medical care. In one case, a 2-year-old child in the family was hurt because of hot water having spilled on them. While they were able to get some initial treatment, they were unable to go for follow up treatment due to financial issues. Another family reported that hospitals were refusing to register a pregnant family member for her delivery. While one respondent reported no fear with regards to COVID, likening it to a flu, another respondent shared that the rising cases were alarming. Since there had been many COVID-related deaths in their village, the family had chosen to stay in Mumbai.



C. Analysis of Secondary Data Focusing on Legal Status of the Cases and Victim Compensation

In order to ensure quality and effective rehabilitation services are made available to the child victims and their families, the Prerana team maintained continuous contact with the families of the child victims and child protection functionaries such as Police, DWCD, DLSA, and the judiciary.

This aspect of the study focuses on the analysis of the secondary data pertaining to the state victim compensation scheme (Manodhairy) and the legal status of the cases that were on board during the lockdown i.e April 2020 to May 2021.

Legal Status of the Cases:

Of the 113 cases, 70 cases were up for hearing in stages ranging from the Application stage to the final judgment stage before the Sessions Court or the Juvenile Justice Board.

Of the 70 cases, 17 cases were at the evidence recording stage of the child victims, complainants, and/or other witnesses.

During the lockdown, in only 3 cases out of the 17, the child victim and the complainant were called for recording their evidence. Of these 3 cases in 2 cases the child victim's evidence was recorded by the court and in 1 case even though the child was called to the court, his statement was not recorded.

Only 6 cases were disposed of during the lockdown, out of which 2 was acquittal and 4 convictions.

Status of the Manodhairyा Victim Compensation:

Of the 113 cases, 92 were eligible for the Manodhairyा Victim Compensation Scheme of Maharashtra. Of the 92 eligible for the scheme, 58 child victims had not received Manodhairyा compensation as of May 2021.

During the lockdown, only 3 child victims received the initial compensation of Rs. 30,000/- under the state compensation scheme. Prior to the lockdown, 21 child victims received the final compensation amount that varied from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.3 lakhs based on the calibration of the offense, and 6 child victims received the initial compensation amount.

The victim compensation status of the 4 child victims is unknown and we are in process of contacting the relevant authority to ascertain the status of the case.



D. WAY FORWARD

The 3rd Rapid Assessment report focused on the challenges that families are facing with relation to the education of the children and the employment status of the working individuals in the household.

The report highlights that the primary concern for the families with children still in an educational institution is to make sure that the children do not drop out of school due to financial constraints that the family is facing in the light of the lockdown. Further the most fundamental concern of the students in higher grades is how the online education, lack of proper invigilation during exams would affect their further education prospects. The inability to gain practical knowledge of various aspects of their courses are a major point of worry for the children as they are of the opinion that it would reflect on their skills to be professionals in their chosen field of work.

It is essential for the Education Department at the State and the Central level to take into account the financial situation of the families and make provisions such that the current inability to pay the complete fee for a year does not affect the education of a student be it in school or in college. It is also necessary for some provisions to be made for the students to gain practical knowledge of their subjects so that it may translate well into their understanding of the subject, aid in higher education or job prospects that they may peruse.

Continued educational opportunities are a big part of the daily routine and rehabilitative experience of the child's life hence provisions should be made to help the families access financial aid to be able to sustain and continue the children's education.

The report also sheds light on the employment status of the families, the need for various members to close their small-scale business and the requirement of family members to change employment. Though employment opportunities have opened up there is a decrease in the salaries of the employees or in the income of business owners which is not reflected in the marked increase in the prices of basic daily essentials to run a household.

It is imperative that community based outreach is carried out to provide individuals with right information relating to the COVID-19 virus and the vaccinations that have been manufactured to combat the virus. Further efforts should be made to make the process of registering for the vaccination more accessible as families without access to the internet or an android phone are able to gain the benefit of the vaccination which in turn will aid in helping the nation as a whole combat the virus.

The study also reflects that it is the need for the hour for the judiciary to keep the families informed about the legal proceedings and timeline. The results of the assessments will form the basis of our immediate work and long-term advocacy with the Government to ensure that child victims of sexual abuse and their families are not left behind amidst the pandemic and are able to avail of all measures brought forth by the government to assist the families in being able to live a dignified life.

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May 2021

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