

COVID-19 lockdown and its impact on rural households

A study by Action for Social
Advancement (ASA)



Introduction



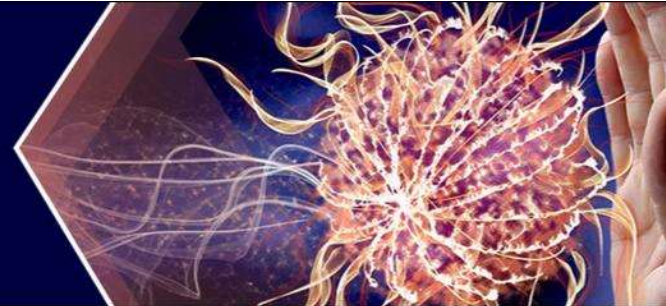
A survey to assess the impact of COVID 19 and the lockdowns on the rural poor was undertaken by ASA in Annupur district of M.P. The survey covered 217 households and carried out from April 27 to May 2, 2020, 35 days after the lockdown. The survey was jointly anchored by Transform Rural India Foundation, Delhi and Vikasanvesh Foundation, a development research centre based in Pune, Maharashtra and methodologically supported by Sambodhi, a well known research firm In Lucknow.

Objective of the study

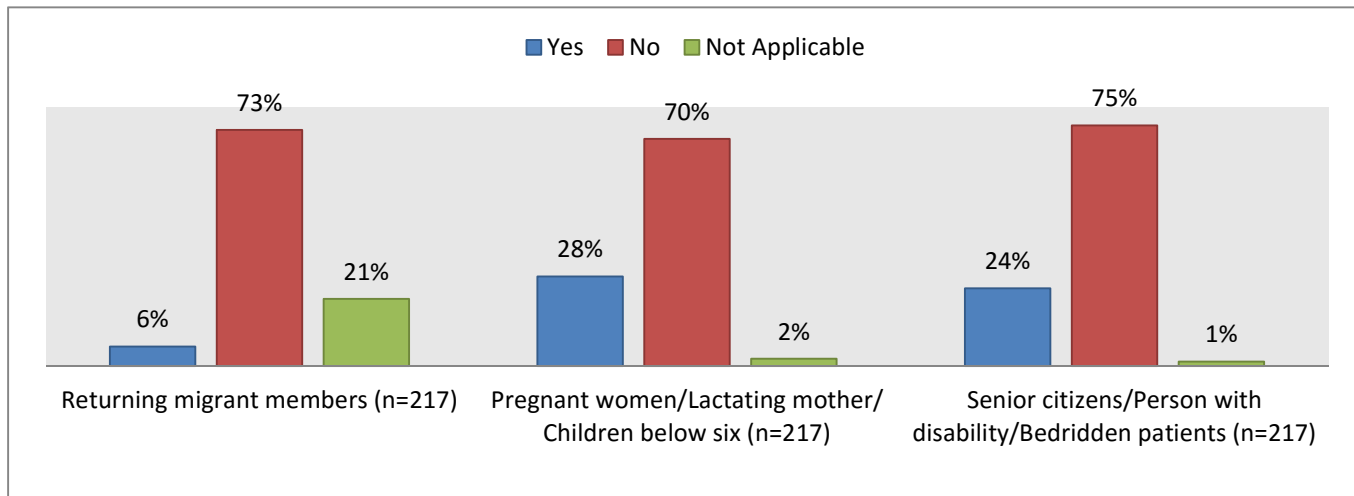


- A rapid assessment of the effect of the COVID-19 induced lockdown on the rural households.
- What are the various coping mechanisms undertaken by the rural households?
- Assessment focused on:
 - ❖ Food security,
 - ❖ Change in expenditure pattern,
 - ❖ Readiness for the forthcoming Kharif season,
 - ❖ Drudgery faced by the women in household
 - ❖ Asset sales, etc.

Key attributes of surveyed households



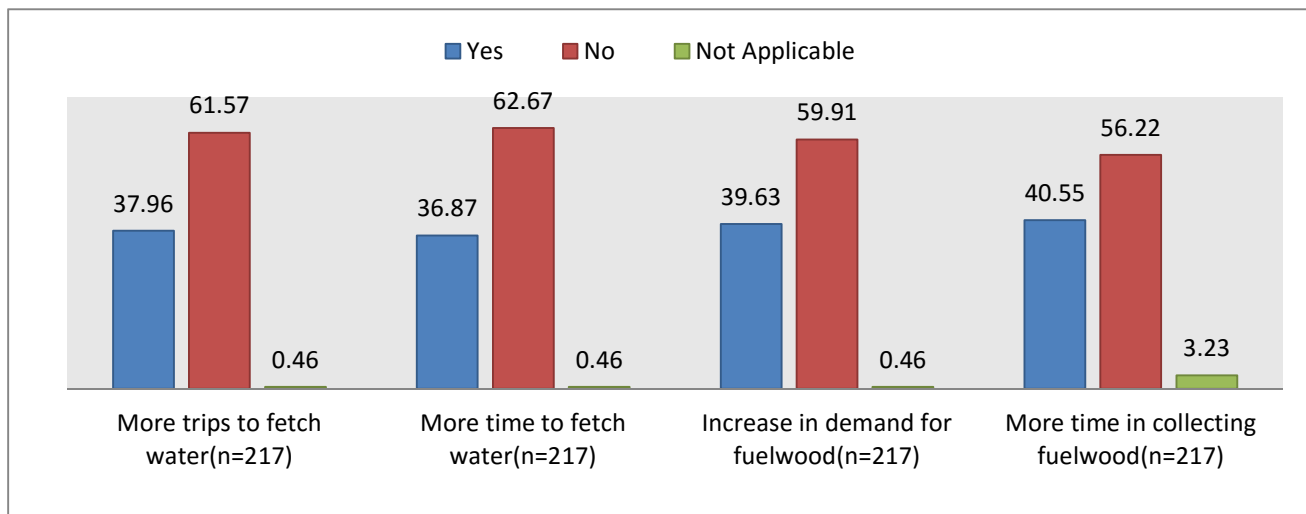
- More than 70% of the surveyed households migrant members yet to return.
- Around 70% of the surveyed households reported no dependent members (young children, senior citizens, pregnant women, lactating mother)



Workload within the household



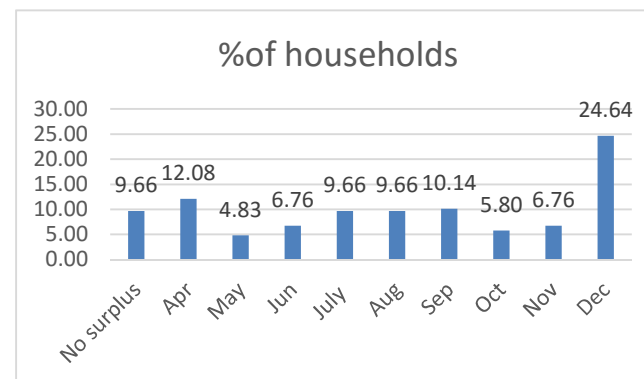
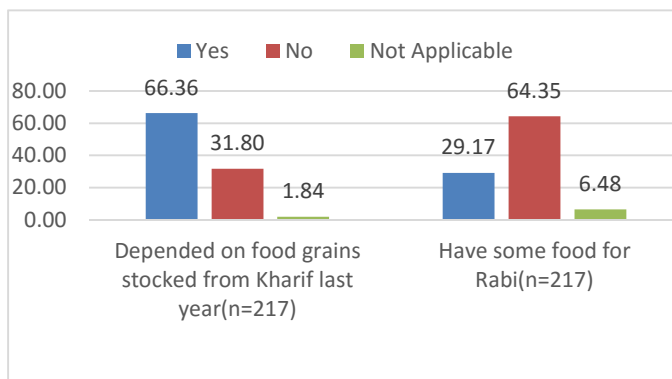
Only few households have returnee migrants – significant chunk are now returning/ will return. The calculated percentage may fluctuate once the migrants are back.



Dependence on existing food stock



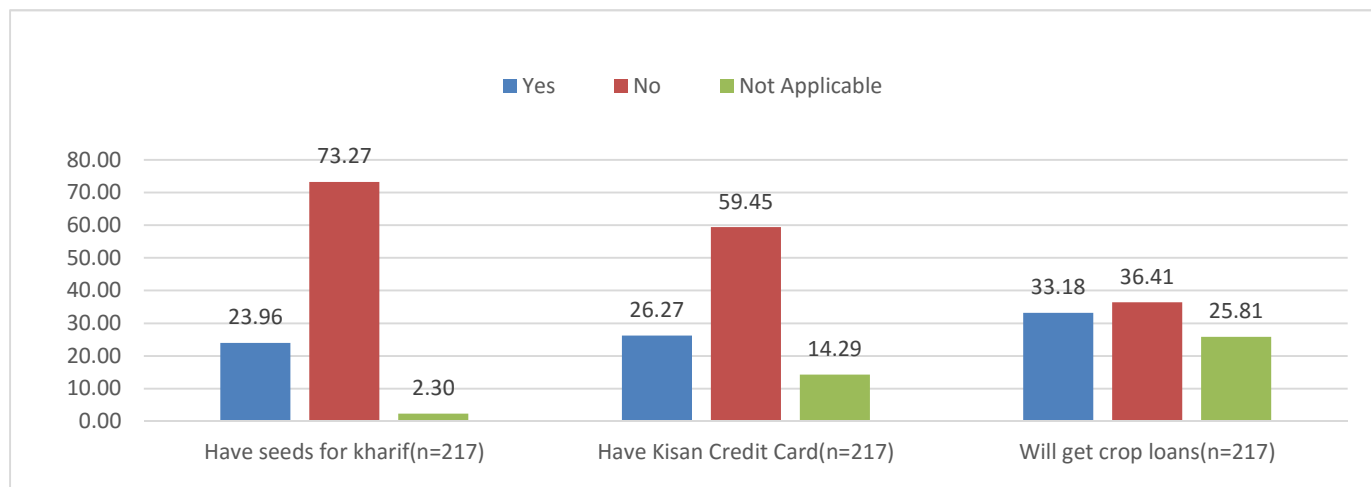
- More than half have surplus from last Kharif.
- More than 60% could not depend on rabi produce for food because only a few of the households are into rabi production.
- Around 75% of the respondent reported that Kharif stock would not last till November . They will mostly depend on next Kharif crop that will be available by the beginning of November 2020.



Readiness for Kharif 2020



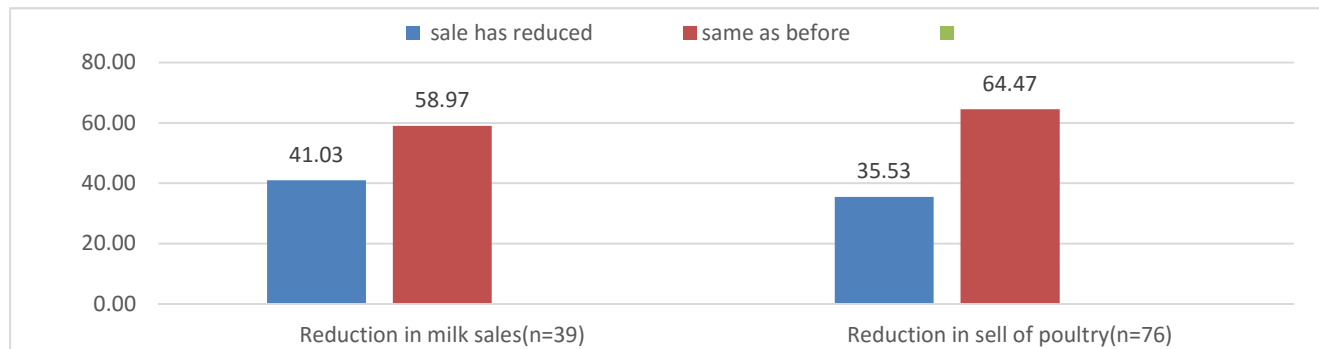
- More than 70% of the respondents do not have seeds for the upcoming Kharif
- Less than 30% have KCC.
- Less than half of the respondents were of the view that they would get crop loans, sources- Local money lender, Government banks.



Reduced income from key livelihood activities



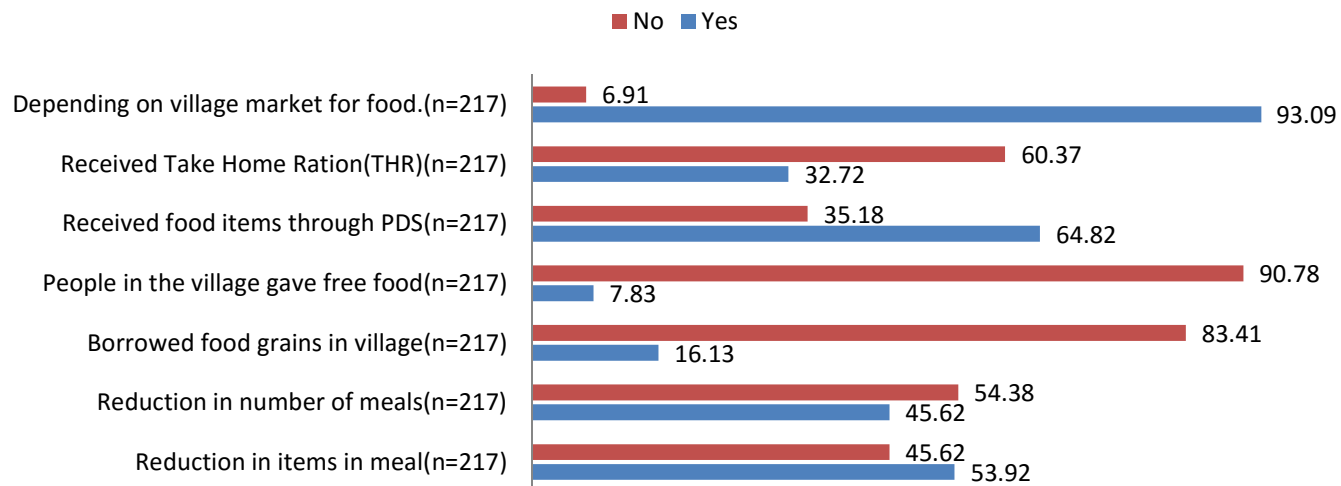
- Lockdown and rumors have adversely affected income
- Total 39 households reported selling milk out of 217 survey respondents ,out of which around 40% have reported reduction in sales
- Total 76 households reported selling poultry out of which around 35% reported reduction in sales



Coping: Immediate adjustments for food security



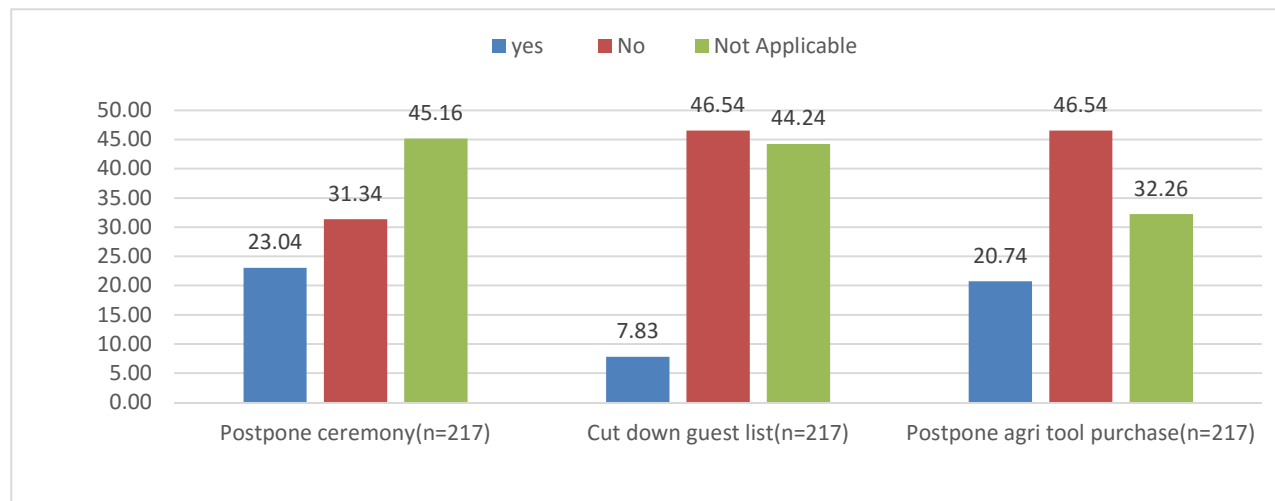
- More than 45% of the households are eating fewer items and less number of times.
- Nearly 16% of households are depending on borrowing from others in the village
- PDS working for the majority – not reaching to 35% of the eligible households



Coping: Postponing discretionary expenses

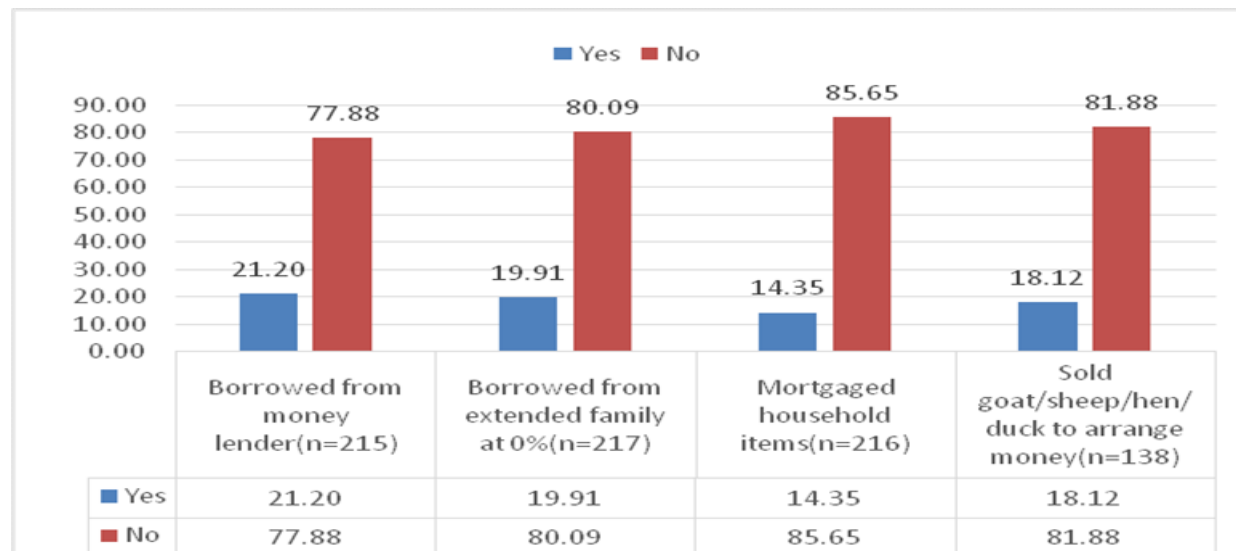


- Nearly 20% of the households reported in postponing agriculture tool purchase.



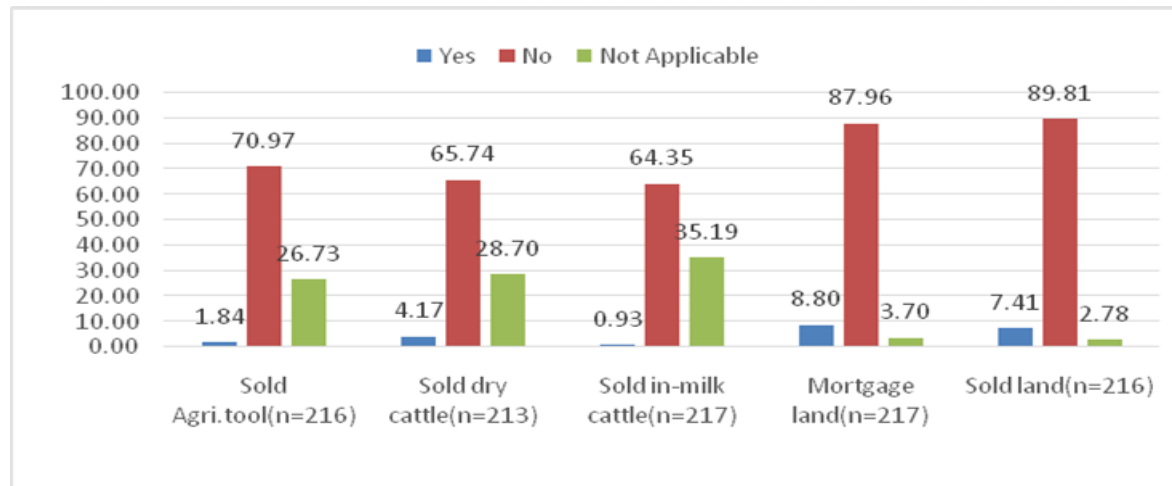
Coping: Borrowing/mortgaging of assets

- At least 20% of the families depended on family networks for borrowing
- Borrowing from moneylender also reported
- Mortgage of household items and sale of liquid assets already taking place



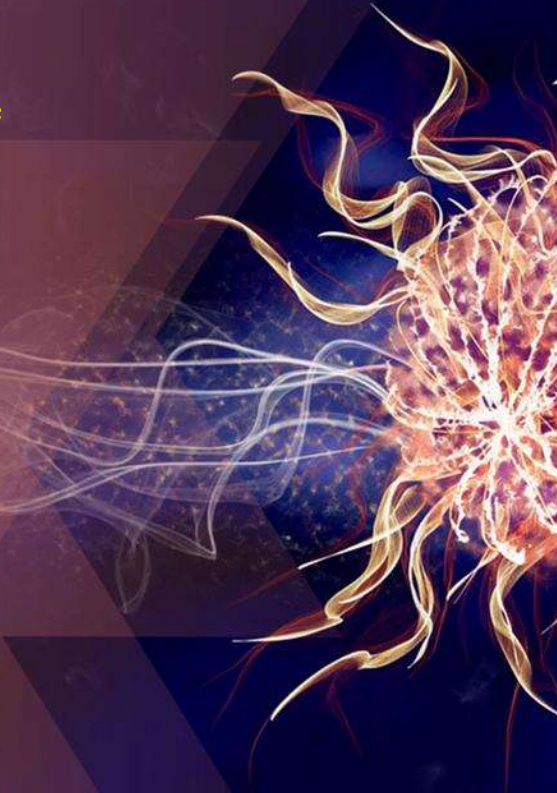
Coping: Sale of productive assets

- Though less, but around (5-6)% of the respondents reported asset sales



Summary 1/2

- Households have depended on Kharif stock more than Rabi – but that stock is now dwindling
- Households are coping with the shock by eating less food and lesser number of times and with large dependence on PDS
- Need for food support through PDS and promotion for food crop cultivation in Kharif
- Preparedness for Kharif 2020 is low - need for public support in terms of seed provision and credit for Kharif 2020.
- Large chunk of migrants yet to return



Summary 2/2

- Lockdown and rumors have indeed adversely affected income – dairy and poultry
- Coping mechanisms mostly clustered around change in food habits and reduction in expenditures
- Borrowing is taking place – indebtedness might increase if the effect of shock prevails
- Asset sales still low - but already reported by a small fraction of respondents
- Gives a snapshot – to understand how the hinterland is getting affected progressively – more rounds will be needed.

