



**Synergy Sansthan**  
Harda, Madhya Pradesh

**Rapid Assessment  
Impact of COVID19 on Adolescents and youths of  
Madhya Pradesh**

**June 2020**



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## 1. Executive summary

The Synergy Sansthan focuses on individuals and their self-transformation, by providing them with the space and platform for exposure, learning and leadership development. It also encourages other stakeholders in the larger ecosystem to formulate decisions & policies in a child-centric & youth-centric way. This rapid assessment is crucial for developing our strategy and influencing policies by the administration for the post lockdown period. The assessment was developed to capture voices of youth and adolescent on education, livelihood, physical and psychological health, and social concerns. The online survey collected response from over 1041 adolescents and youths across Madhya Pradesh. We also collected views of 22 NGOs working with youth and adolescent, to triangulate our insights gathered from the online survey response.

The respondents were majorly male (74 percent) and belonged to the rural region (65 percent) of Madhya Pradesh. 3 percent of the respondents were disabled with majority of them physically disabled followed by blind youth/adolescents. The data was collected from four age groups -15-19 years (21 percent), 20-24 years (40 percent), 25-29 years (21 percent) and 30-35 years (18 percent). Most of the respondents were unmarried (62 percent) whereas 36 percent were married. 92 percent of the respondent had 4 or more members in the family. Among all the focus areas, livelihoods were major concern for the respondents (64 percent), followed by physical health (56 percent) and social concerns such as access to food, medicines, etc. (50 percent).

As the lockdown was imposed in March, which is also a month for academic examinations, students were impacted severely with 68 percent of them highlighting issue of forgetting studies. Apart from this, less time to pay (56 percent), irritation due to stress (51 percent) and violence at home (22 percent) were also highlighted. It was important to note that only 18 percent respondents mentioned that they have enough money to fund the education after lockdown, while 50 percent do not have money and 32 percent did not know due to lack of clarity on how and when the academics will open.

COVID19 has adversely impacted global economy and Indian businesses have been hit hard. India's unemployment rate is now at a record high of 27.1 percent, according to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE). Nationwide lockdown added to the miseries of businesses which resulted in over 122 million individuals losing jobs across India. Of the 122 million who have lost their jobs, 91.3 million were small traders and laborers. 38 percent of the survey respondents confirmed that they lost livelihood due to lockdown. This loss may be temporary or partial; but considering that 35 percent of the respondents are the only earning member in their family, impact of loss of livelihoods will drive households into poverty. The International Labour Organisation has highlighted that by end of this financial year, people under poverty may double if significant economic boosting majors are not taken up by the Government. Among the respondents, 62 percent of the respondents are earning below INR 50,000 per annum and 25 percent are earning between INR 50,000 to INR 1,00,000 per annum. This highlights the vulnerability of the segment which can suffer long periods of lockdown. Only 11 percent of the respondents have full-time job and equal number have part-time job. However, 35 percent are looking for job and 21 percent are working as labour.



Among the respondents of the survey, only 28 percent households have enough savings to survive the long lockdown, while 5 percent informed that they do not have any savings. This group is completely dependent on support from NGOs and government for survival. However, the 67 percent individuals who have savings for one to four weeks, also need attention, if the lockdown is not lifted and income sources are not reinstated. Youth have learned the important of financial planning (37 percent) and managing expenses (59 percent).

The unprecedented situation of lockdown and epidemic has impacted most of the population psychologically, resulting in adverse impact on health and wellbeing. 37 percent youth and adolescents agreed that they are suffering from increased psychological stress due to lockdown and pandemic. Over 50 percent youth have acknowledged that they are using internet and spending time with friends and family. Youth are also engaging in other activities like social media (39 percent), cooking (23 percent), music (31 percent), painting (6 percent), reading newspapers (26 percent), and studying (30 percent). 34 percent youth and adolescent have faced violence during lockdown, such as, shouting or threatening (28 percent), beating (8 percent), abusive language (8 percent), physical abuse (4 percent) and sexual abuse (1 percent). Interestingly, 15 percent of the youth have shown interest in extending counselling support to others as part of volunteering activities after lockdown.

The lockdown disrupted the social and economic activity due to complete halt to the movement of individuals and disruption in supply chains. India has seen the largest reverse migration on human history during last 2 months. From our survey, we noted only 7 percent respondent had to relocate during lockdown. It is also noted that 60 percent respondents received help from government and 22 percent from NGOs and other agencies such as CSR. 43 percent confirmed receiving food and ration from various agencies. Reduction in livelihood opportunities (58 percent), loss of existing employment (48 percent) and psychological health (57 percent) are the most prominent issues raised by the adolescent and youth. Psychological stress, tension, fear, loss of motivation has been the major issue for the age group of 15-19 years (55 percent) and 20-24 years (57 percent). Whereas reduction in livelihood opportunities was major concern for age group of 25-29 year (72 percent) and 30-35 years (65 percent).

Based on the observations from youth and adolescent survey data analysis and response from the NGOs, our recommendations are as follows:

- a. Share accurate information about COVID19 and tools for adopting social distancing
- b. Enable learning with social distancing and remotely
- c. Economic support for education and vocational skills training
- d. Financial literacy to build economic resilience and revive faster
- e. COVID19 enterprise incubator for digital, healthcare, hygiene, counselling innovations
- f. Develop labour register like UrbanClap
- g. Provide tech-enabled healthcare and tele-medicine
- h. Provide qualified psycho-social counselling services
- i. Create platform for volunteering by youth and adolescent
- j. Facilitate access to government schemes and youth rights

In following sections, we will share the context, assessment design, respondent profile, key observations from the field and our recommendations.



## 2. Context and Overview

### 2.1. Context

At Synergy Sansthan we believe that adolescent and youth have a fundamental role to play in leading social change and enabling their communities to overcome these vulnerabilities. Therefore, we focus on developing the life competencies and leadership capacities of adolescents and youth. Our interventions focus on individuals and their self-transformation, by providing them with the space and platform for exposure, learning and leadership development. We also encourage other stakeholders in the larger ecosystem to formulate decisions & policies in a child-centric & youth-centric way. This rapid assessment is crucial for developing our strategy and influencing policies by the administration for the post lockdown period.

The spread of novel corona virus from Wuhan province of China in December 2019 to the rest of the world has been so rapid and astonishing, that the governments across the globe had to implement lockdown in absence of any other solution. In less than 3 months from the time World Health Organisation (WHO) announced observation of a new disease in China, Indian government implemented nationwide lockdown to ensure safety of its citizen. However, the challenge itself was so new, that the impact of such lockdown and disease outbreak was unthinkable. By the end of May 2020, when government decided to unlock major part of economy, according to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, number of cases in Madhya Pradesh reached over 7,600 and over 182,000 in India. From the global data, it is observed that the youth, being in better health, are relatively less vulnerable to the COVID19. Thus, they can play key role in protecting other members of the society. Also, they are expected to create solutions for the challenges posed by the pandemic and revive the economy.

In India, March-April is a school exam period and the decision of lockdown created huge chaos among school children, adolescents, parents and academic institutions who were ready to complete the academic year and move to next class in couple of months. However, this turned out to be a never-ending wait as the fear of infections and social distancing norms impacted the education system at its roots. In order to ensure safety of our children, the pedagogy and medium of instructions need to change. The Ed-Tech (education technology) organizations have given hope for online teaching and almost all schools, including some government schools in Madhya Pradesh have moved online. Certain innovative methods of engaging with children and teaching with social distancing is being experimented. At this juncture, it is critical to understand view of adolescent and youth on challenges they face in terms of education and psychological stress to come up with new strategies and tools for imparting education and developing the generation as it was envisioned before the COVID19. Though Government of India has announced starting television channels for each standard before the next academic year, challenges can be much more diverse than moving the education online.

India is also a country with highest absolute number of poor i.e. 270 million people as per 2011-12 census<sup>1</sup>, in the world. In the second week of April 2020, UN's International Labour

<sup>1</sup> <http://censusindia.gov.in/>



Organization (ILO) claimed that about 400 million workers from India's informal sector are likely to be pushed deeper into poverty due to COVID19.<sup>2</sup> The lockdown also disrupted the supply chains across India and globally. This impacted the supply of essentials such as, vegetables, groceries, medicines, sanitation and hygiene items, etc. Closure of local shops and online services added to the misery of people. Agriculture being the backbone of Indian economy and dealing with perishables, needed urgent help. Loss of income for short period or permanent loss of employment, can devastate the lives and aspirations of millions. Particularly for the rural and tribal regions, the situation can get worse. India has witnessed its largest reverse migration in Apr-May 2020 due to lack of proper alternative arrangements for the migrant labors. Though Government announced doubling of PDS ration and cash transfer of meager INR 1000/- for poor this support is not enough. Even NGOs, CSR agencies, housing societies and common citizen extended food and shelter support for urban poor. But the scale of impact is such that the incidental support will not be enough. Government has also announced financial package of INR 20 lakh crore to revive agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure sector. However, these measures will take its own sweet time to show any positive impact on the economy.

## 2.2. Objectives of the rapid assessment

The assessment aims to understand following aspects from the survey data analysis.

- The crisis' effect on youth's employment and learning situation and aspirations, psychological well-being and mental health
- Civil Society's (working with adolescent, youth and led by youth) perspective on the impact of COVID-19 in the adolescents and youth life, challenges they are facing, the solutions they are creating.

In this report, we share our insights into education, livelihood, physical and psychological health, and social concerns, from an online survey of over 1041 adolescent and youth across Madhya Pradesh. We also collected view of 22 NGOs working with youth and adolescent, to triangulate our insights gathered from the online survey response. This chapter is followed by details of the assessment design, respondent profile, key observations and our recommendations.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/covid-19-may-double-poverty-in-india/1943736/>

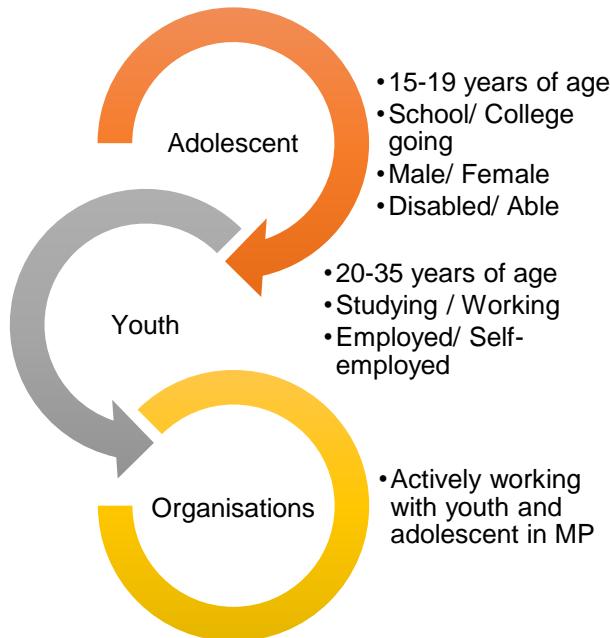
### 3. Assessment Design

The rapid assessment was conceptualized and designed by Synergy Sansthan in association with National Institute of Women Child & Youth Development (NIWCYD), Pahal Jan Sahayog Vikas Sansthan, Social Health & Education Development Organization (SHEDO) and Agrini. This study uses strengths of all organisation to network with youth in different parts of Madhya Pradesh and adopts the strategy to suit the conditions of lockdown in April and May 2020 due to COVID19 pandemic. The assessment includes collection of quantitative as well as qualitative data to generate insights that can help the team to develop a better-informed strategy.

#### 3.1. Stakeholder identification

Key stakeholders involved in the study are represented in the adjacent figure. Synergy team along with the partner organizations developed tools to gather information remotely using online platform in limited time period to meet the objectives of the assessment.

While the adolescent and youth provided vital inputs to understand the current situation and key concerns, inputs from organizations working with them validated some of the data. Approaches adopted by organizations to resolve some of the challenges faced by youth and inputs from the key representatives will further help in developing robust strategy for the Synergy team.



#### 3.2. Data collection

Geographic area for the rapid assessment was defined as Madhya Pradesh State in India. Key stakeholders for the study were identified as discussed in section above. For this rapid assessment, online questionnaires were used for data collection from large number of respondents. The leadership team of Synergy Sansthan also gathered insights from video conferences and telephonic conversations with thought leaders and active agencies working with the youth and adolescents. Due to epidemic and lockdown conditions, online questionnaire is considered as main tool for data collection.

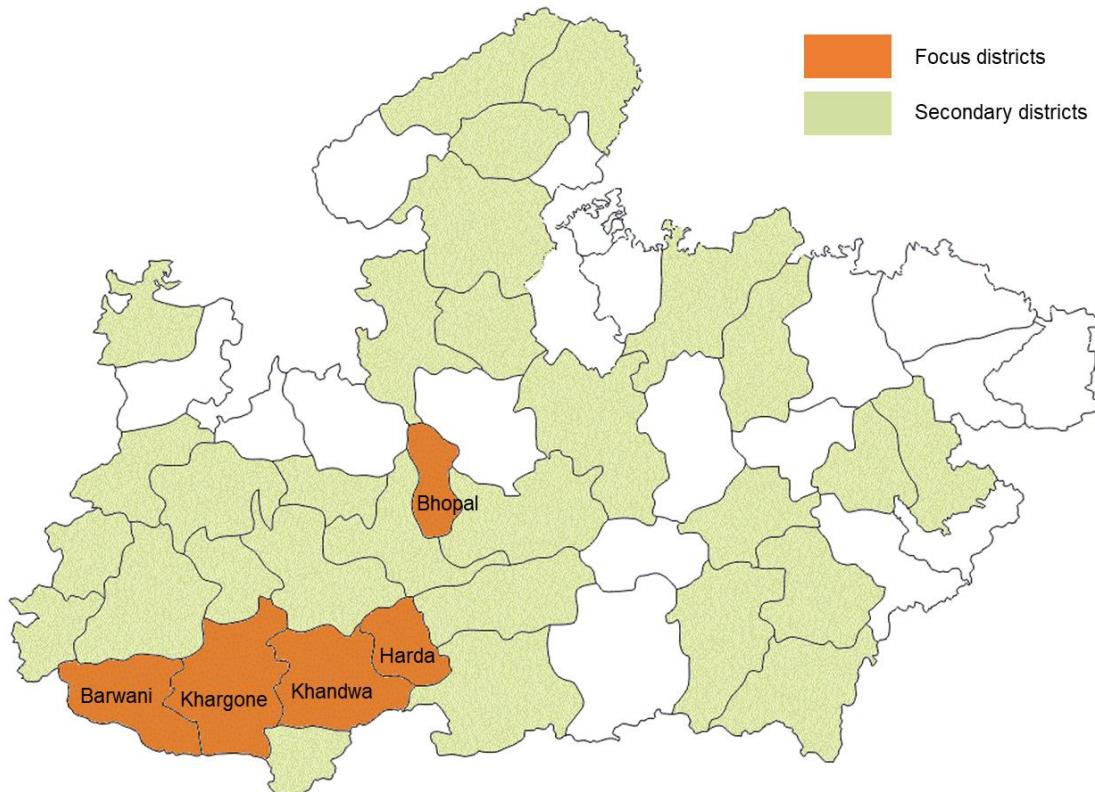
- **Online questionnaire** (closed and open ended): Individual questionnaire with general profile data about respondent, issues due to COVID19 and lockdown situation, views on the future and overall approach for post-lockdown period was collected.

Key stakeholder interviewed using online questionnaire and reach after the data collection campaign is indicated in following table.



	Data collection tools	Number of respondents
Youth and adolescents	Online questionnaire	1041
NGOs working with youth & adolescents	Online questionnaire	22

We observed overwhelming response from focus districts of Sysnergy Sansthan and partner organizations. Harda, Barwani, Khargone, Bhopal and Khandwa are home to 80 percent of the respondents while remaining 31 districts represent 20 percent responses. Following picture indicates focus and secondary districts in the survey.



### 3.3. Analysis

Primary data collected during the study was entered in the MS Excel and analyzed to understand the concerns in following areas:

- Education
- Livelihoods and financial planning
- Psycho-social health and wellbeing
- Social issues

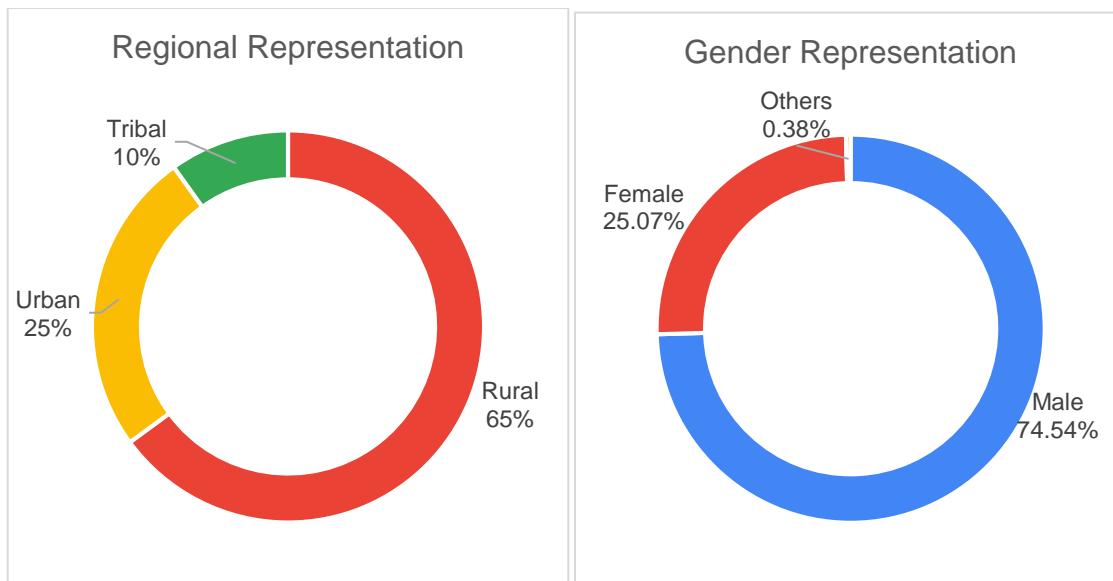
Data collected from representatives of organizations working with youth and adolescent was used for triangulating the insights generated from the data analysis. Insights from data helped in developing the recommendations section of the report. Following chapters share detailed data analysis for impact of COVID19 on life of adolescent and youth in Madhya Pradesh.

## 4. Respondent Profile

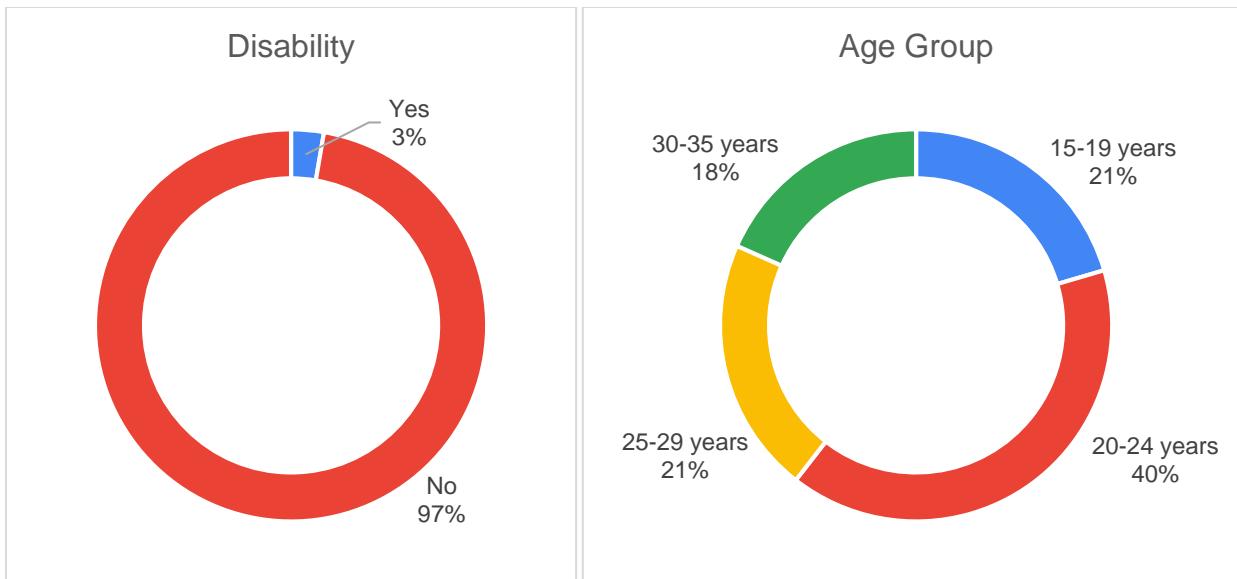
The rapid assessment was designed to collect data using online questionnaire. Mobilization was done by Synergy Sansthan and partner organizations - NIWCYD, Pahal Jan Sahayog Vikas Sansthan, SHEDO and Agrini. Response was sought from adolescent and youth across Madhya Pradesh. With an overwhelming response from over 1041 respondents spread across 31 districts, we believe this is a novel study focusing on adolescent and youth in Madhya Pradesh during lockdown period. The response shared by participants is carefully analyzed and insights are derived to adopt a more focused and precision strategy to reach out to the underserved.

Detailed list of districts and number of responses received from them are shared in assessment design section of this report. Key demographic observations from the primary data collected are as follows. It should be noted that the observations are based on online responses collected as mentioned earlier.

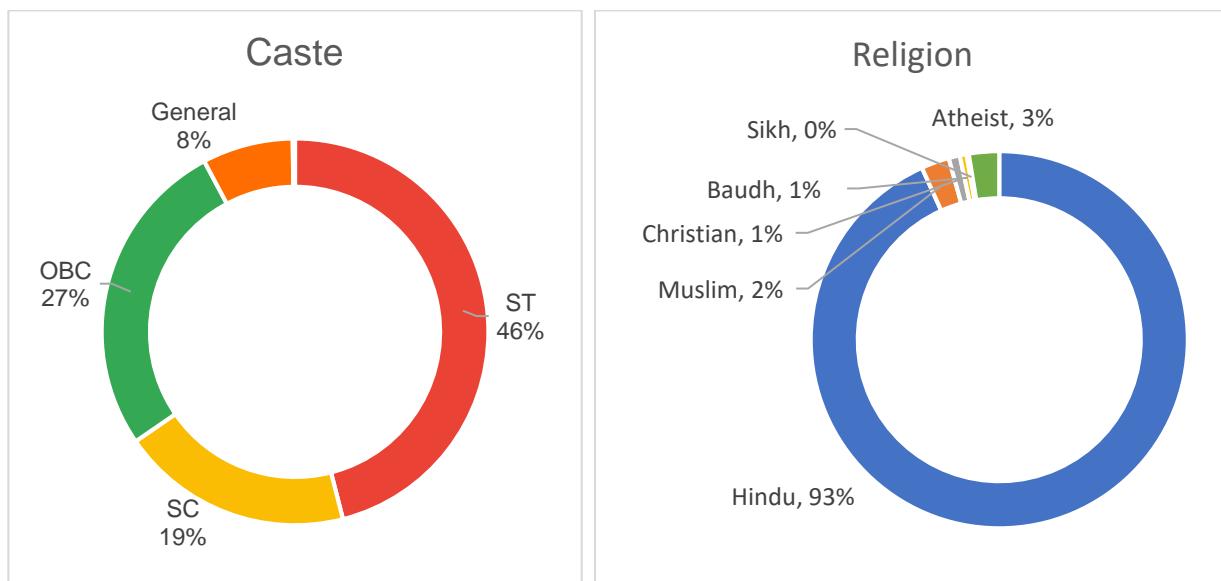
- Majority of the respondents were belonged to rural (65 percent) and tribal (10 percent) regions of the state. Most of these respondents have migrated to nearby towns/ district headquarters for better education and employment opportunities.
- 74.54 percent were male respondents, 25.07 percent were female, and 0.38 percent were others



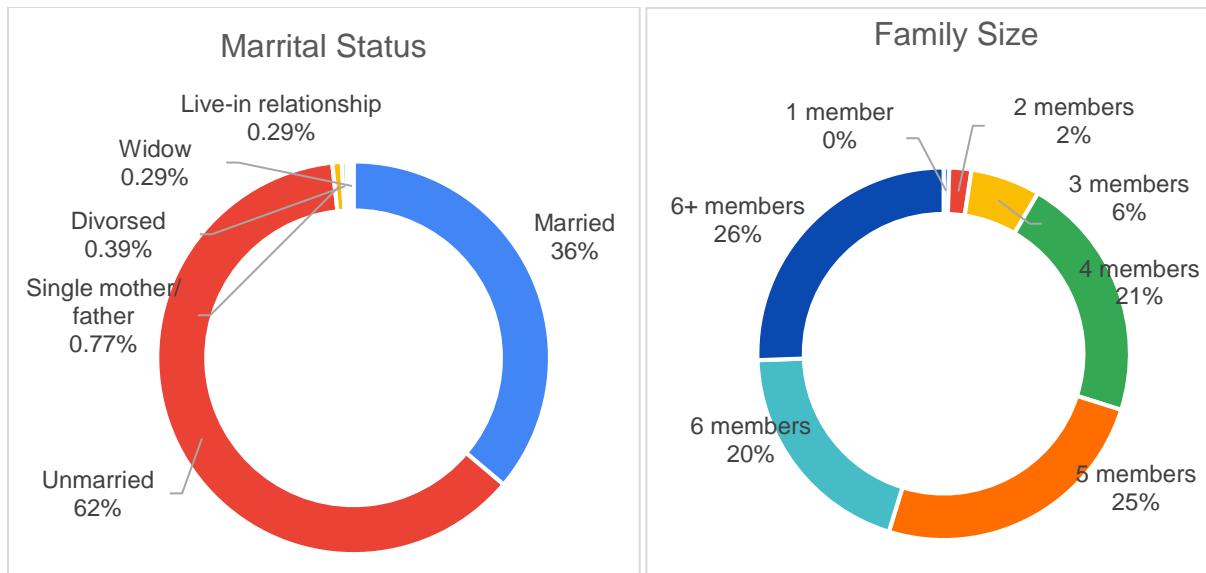
- 3 percent respondent were disabled with majority of them physically disabled followed by blind youth/adolescents
- Interestingly the age groups are uniformly represented with 20-24 years age group dominating at 40 percent. Other age groups 15-19 years, 25-29 years, and 30-35 years represent 21 percent, 21 percent, and 18 percent responses respectively. As this characteristic was uniform compared to other characteristics, we have used age group as basis for deeper analysis of some responses in the key observations section.



- Over 46 percent respondents are ST, 19 percent are SC, 27 percent are OBC and remaining 8 percent are from general category
- 93 percent respondents follow Hindu religion and over 3 percent are atheist



- Most of the respondents are unmarried, 62 percent; while 36 percent are married. Few respondents are from vulnerable section such as single mother/ father, divorced, widow and in live-in relation.
- 92 percent respondents have 4 or more family members, of which 46 percent have 6 or more members.



In next section, we will highlight key observations from the data in:

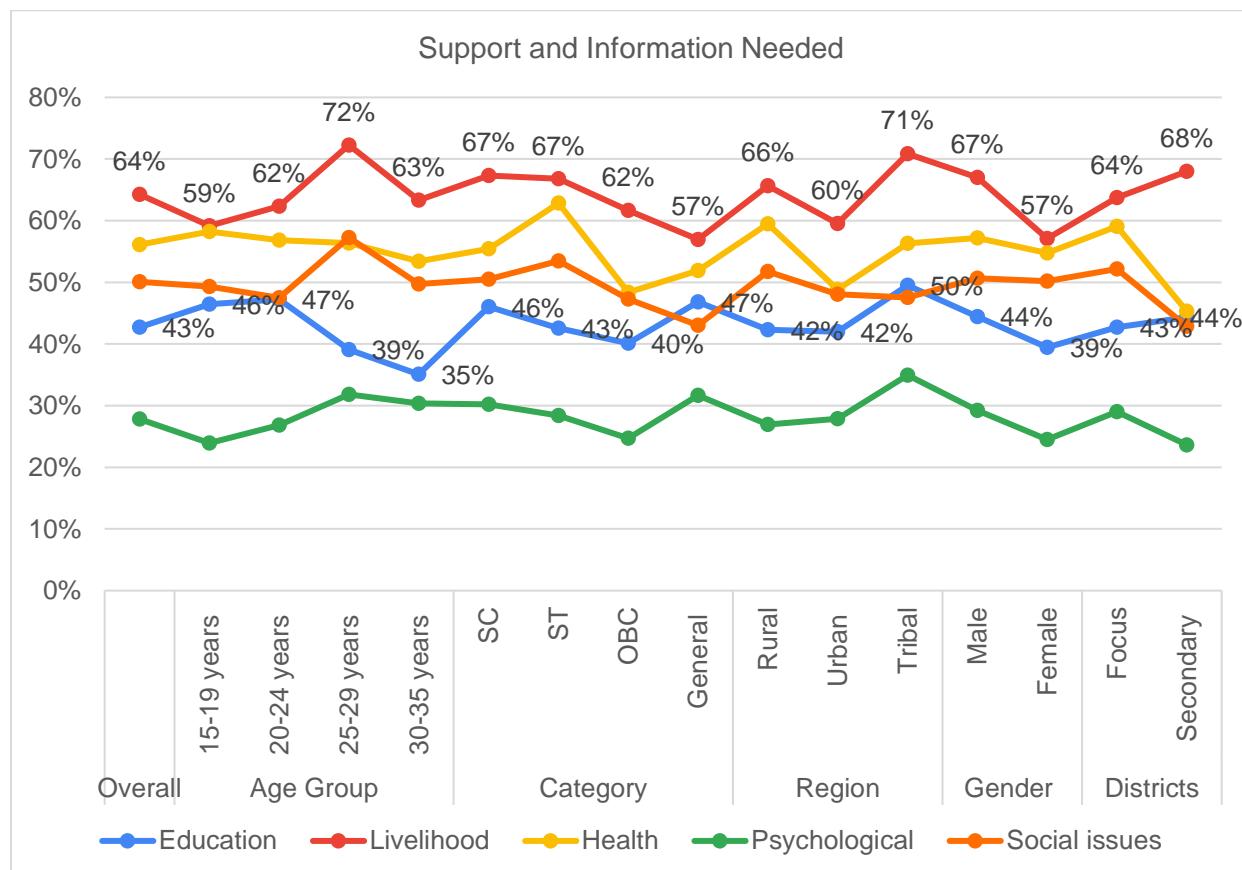
- Education
- Livelihoods and financial planning
- Psycho-social health and wellbeing
- Social issues



## 5. Key Observations

Our assessment was designed to capture youth and adolescent concerns around five major focus areas. This focus area identification was based on initial interaction with youth as well as inputs from subject matter experts from the region. Following graph indicates number of youths who seek support and information on education (43 percent), livelihoods (64 percent), health (56 percent), psychological (28 percent), and local services such as accessibility to purchase groceries (50 percent). Key observations are:

- Adolescent (age group of 15-19 years) expressed concerns of education and health
- Youth (age group of 25-29 years) expressed concerns over livelihoods and local services to manage their households better
- Respondents from tribal region need support for livelihood, psychological health and education
- Respondents from rural region need support in physical health and social concerns such as supply of goods and services
- Female respondents expressed concerns around social issues whereas male respondents need support in livelihood, education and psychological health
- Adolescent and youth from the focus districts need physical and psychological health support more while for secondary districts, livelihood and education support is critical



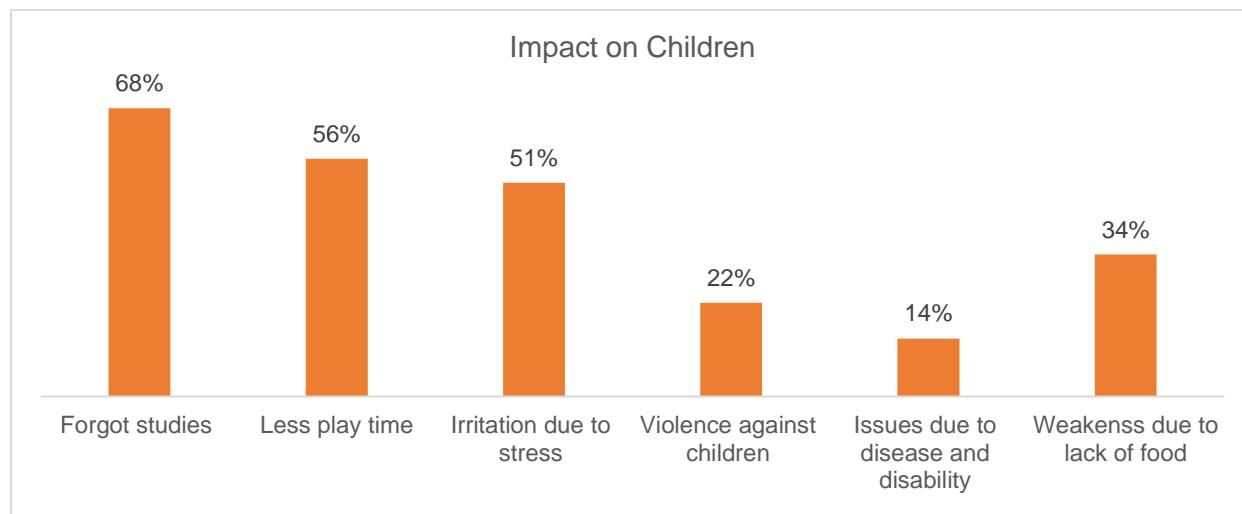
We will discuss response of the youth and adolescent on each of these focus areas and analyses them in detail.



## 5.1. Education

According to the Census 2011, literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh was 70.6, which was lower than national average of 74.0<sup>3</sup>. The COVID19 pandemic and changed realities of learning ecosystem and has impacted education sector the hardest. With parents fearing to send their children to the school, youth worried about paying their fees in challenging financial conditions, and education institutes rolling out online courses; it is pertinent to handhold children, youth and parents for better education outcomes.

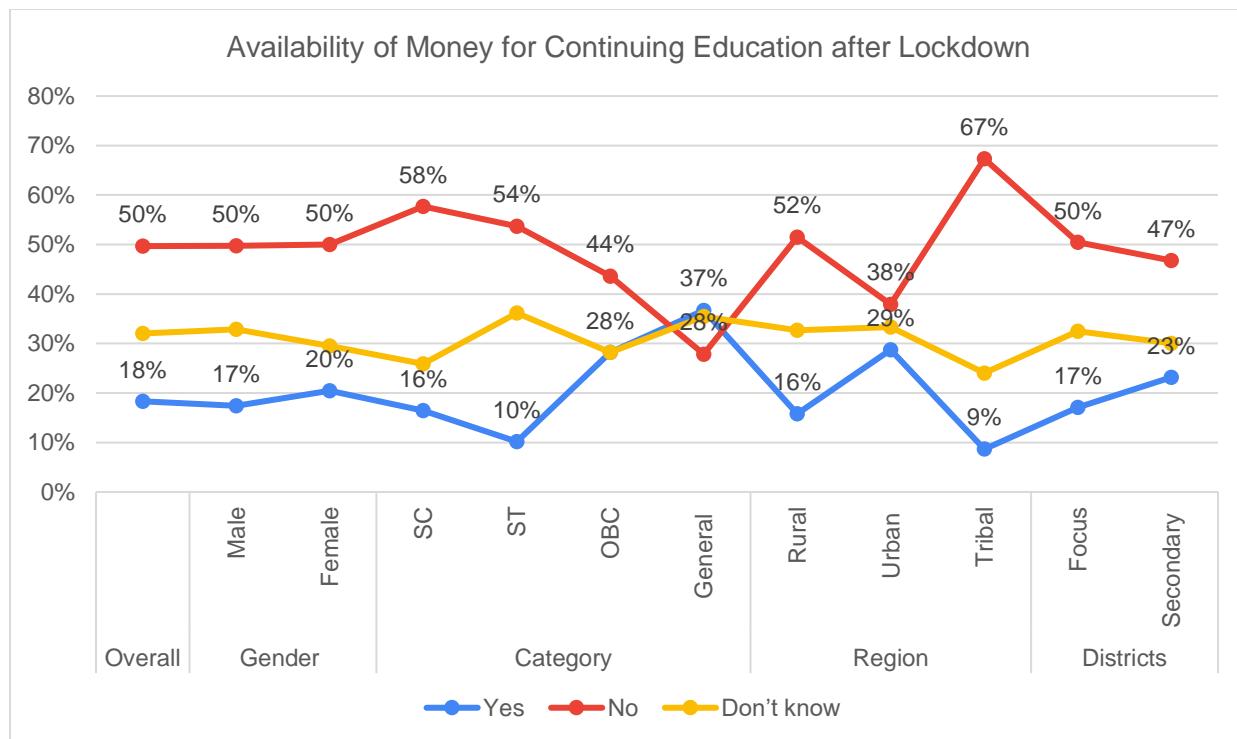
Impact on children due to COVID19 and lockdown is shown in following chart. As noted by education experts, the lockdown has resulted in students forgetting studies (68 percent) with uncertainty of exams and no clarity on schedule for next academic year. It was also noted that there is severe impact on health of children due to lack of outdoor play time (56 percent) opportunities and reduction in total time spent on indoor games due to engagement in other activities such as internet browsing and watching TV. Impact of grocery supplies has slowly impacted nutritional intake, resulting in weakness among kids (34 percent). It is important to note the impact of increased violence against children (22 percent) and irritation due to stress (51 percent) will have long term negative impact on growth of children.



We also enquired availability of money with the respondents to meet education expenses after lockdown. Only 18 percent respondents confirmed that they have enough funds for continuing education and 32 percent are unable to predict due to uncertainties of the future. Almost 50 percent respondents will need economic support to resume education after the lockdown. Key highlights from the following chart are as follows:

- Adolescent and youth from tribal region are the most vulnerable with over 67 percent confirming that they do not have sufficient funds for continuing education
- Adolescent and youth from rural region and SC and ST category need support for continuing education
- Need for support is also higher in focus districts i.e. Harda, Barwani, Khargone, Bhopal and Khandwa, compared to secondary districts

<sup>3</sup> <http://censusindia.gov.in/>

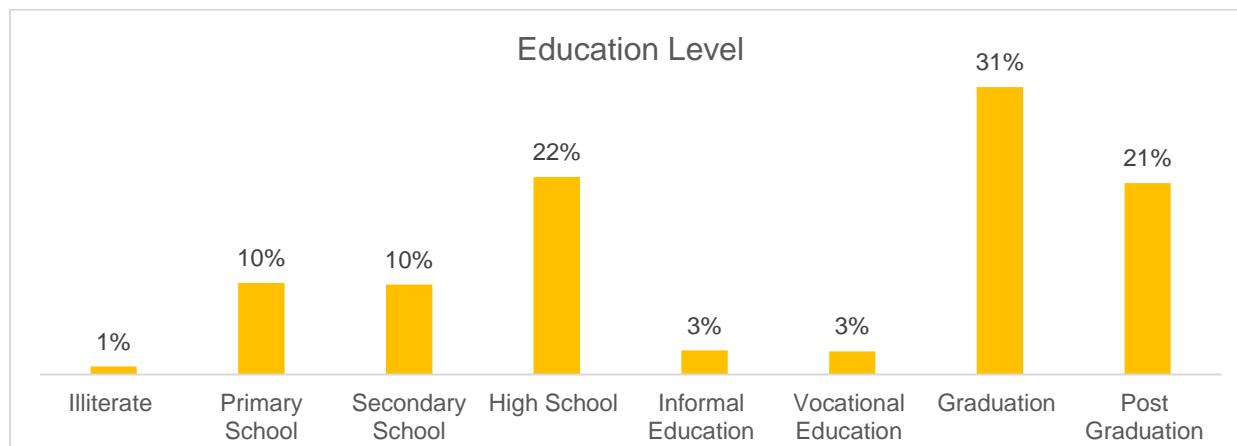


The data collected from target audience in the age group of 15 to 35 indicated that, 52 percent respondents have completed graduation and 21 percent of them have post-graduation degree. Though this data is not representative of the population of the state, it is useful in developing specific programme for adolescent and youth migrating from rural and tribal regions. It is also noted that the vocational education remains very low with only 3 percent respondents having formal vocational education and around 3 percent respondent with informal education received.

It is notable that only one percent respondents are illiterate, i.e. they have no formal or informal education, but they could respond to the online questionnaire with support from others.

Organizations working with children need to collaborate with parents, schools, sports clubs and other agencies to develop innovative solutions for the new normal.

20 percent respondents indicated that they plan to opt for online courses after lockdown, and 22 percent want to improve their skills for online education methods.



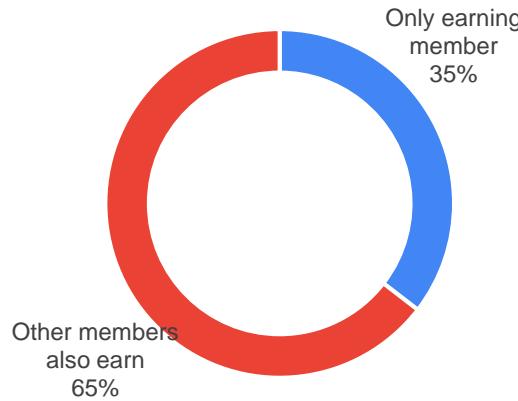
## 5.2. Livelihoods and financial planning

COVID19 has adversely impacted global economy and Indian businesses have been hit hard. India's unemployment rate is now at a record high of 27.1 percent, according to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE). Nationwide lockdown added to the miseries of businesses which resulted in over 122 million<sup>4</sup> individuals losing jobs across India. Of the 122 million who have lost their jobs, 91.3 million were small traders and laborers. But a significant number of salaried workers - 17.8 million and 18.2 million self-employed people have lost job.

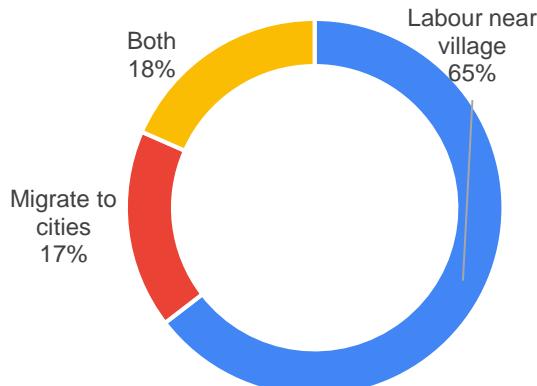
38 percent of the survey respondents confirmed that they lost livelihood due to lockdown. This loss may be temporary or partial; but considering that 35 percent of the respondents are the only earning member in their family, impact of loss of livelihoods will drive households into poverty. The International Labour Organisation has highlighted that by end of this financial year, people under poverty may double if significant economic boosting majors are not taken up by the Government.

Out of the population that migrates for work, 65 percent respondents are opting for labour near their village, whereas 17 percent migrate to cities in search of better livelihood opportunities. Also, it is noted that 62 percent of the respondents are earning below INR 50,000 per annum and 25 percent are earning between INR 50,000 to INR 1,00,000 per annum. This highlights the vulnerability of the segment which can suffer long periods of lockdown.

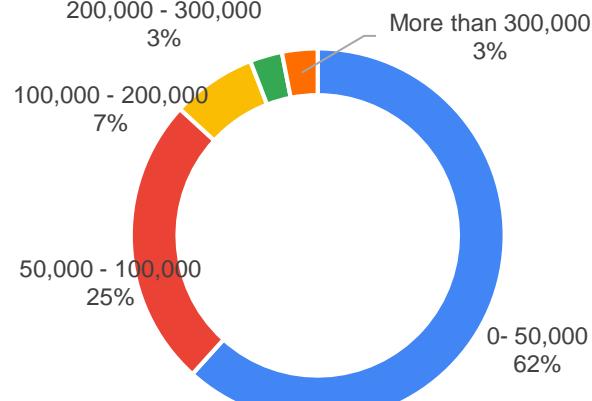
Earning Members in Family



Migration for Labour



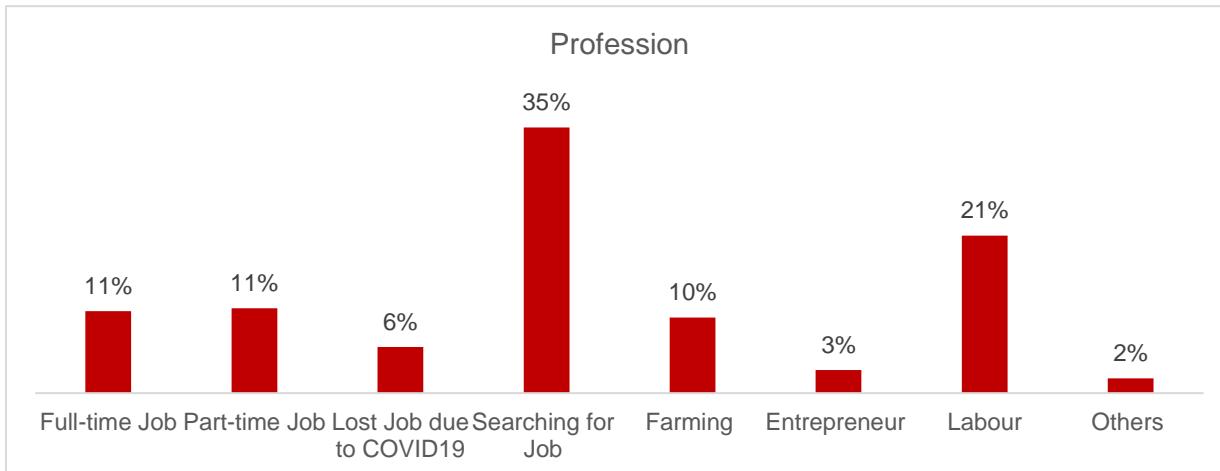
Income Level



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52559324>



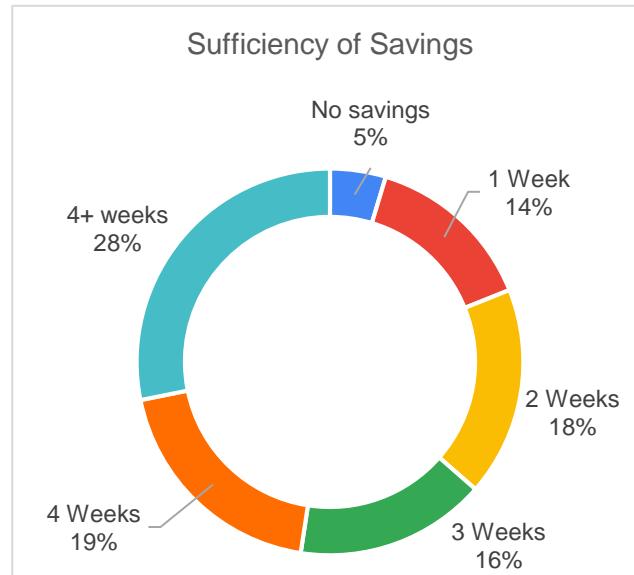
Only 11 percent of the respondents have full-time job and equal number have part-time job. However, over 35 percent are currently looking for job and 6 percent have lost job due to lockdown related economic issues. Part-time employees and labour are the worst hit due to lockdown.

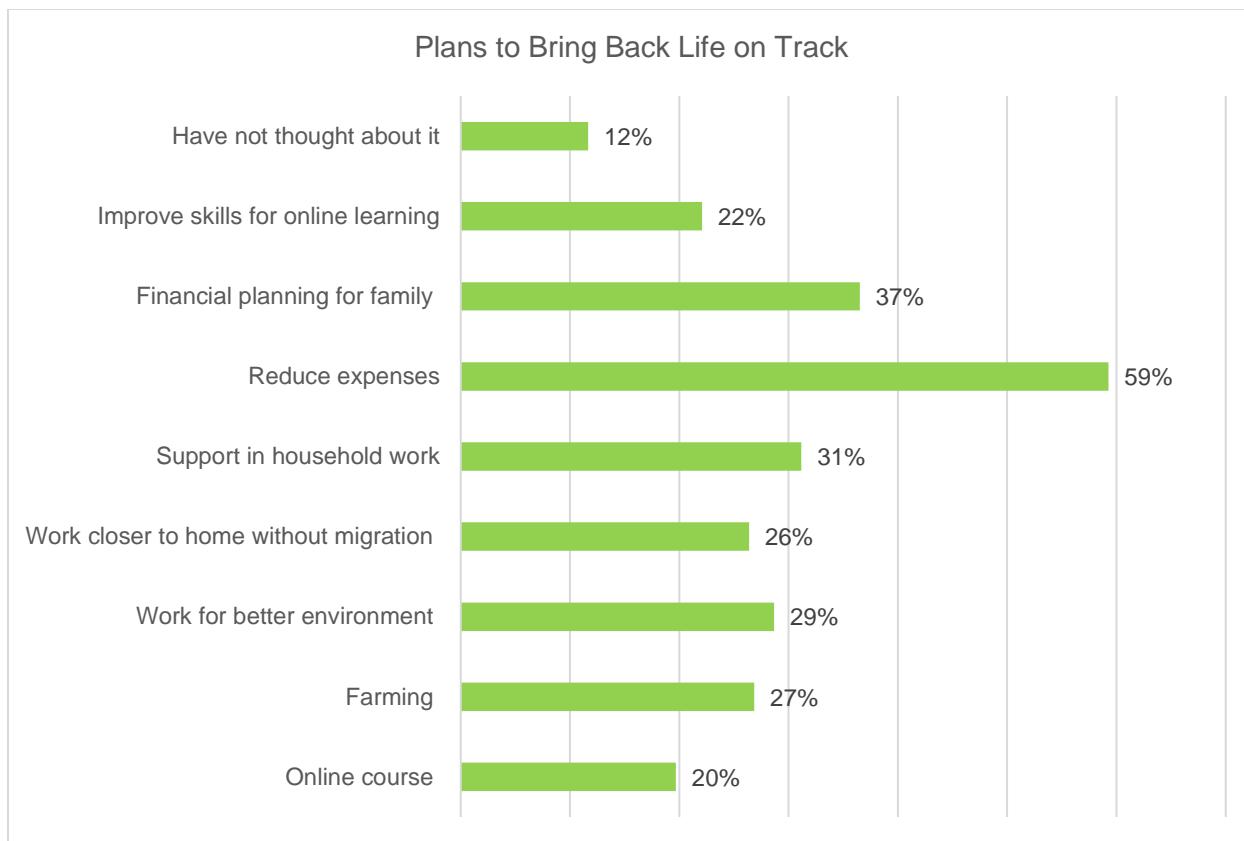


### 5.2.1. Financial planning

The uncertainties in employment and supply of goods and services have forced individuals to think about financial planning again and set new goals. Among the respondents of the survey, only 28 percent households have enough savings to survive the long lockdown, while 5 percent informed that they do not have any savings. This group is completely dependent on support from NGOs and government for survival. However, the 67 percent individuals who have savings for one to four weeks, also need attention, if the lockdown is not lifted and income sources are not reinstated.

Youth plan to do the financial planning exercise for household (37 percent), cut-down on expenses (59 percent), engage in household work (31 percent) and farming (27 percent) to improve financial health, and also plan to learn skills for online education (22 percent) and opt for online courses (20 percent). 26 percent youth have also planned to work closer to their home for better planning and reduce expenses. Youth and adolescent plan to opt for following methods for getting back to normal life after lockdown.

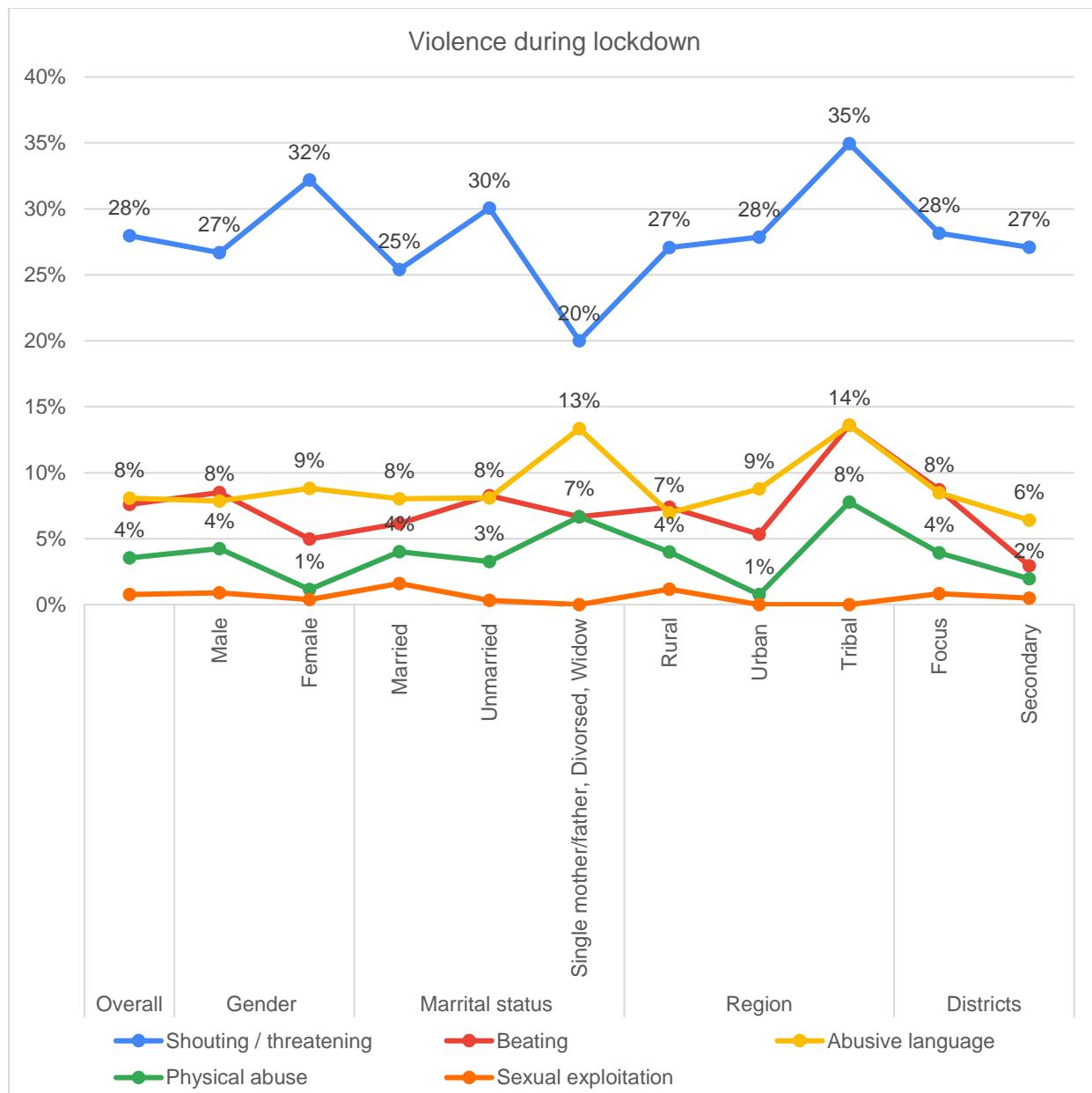




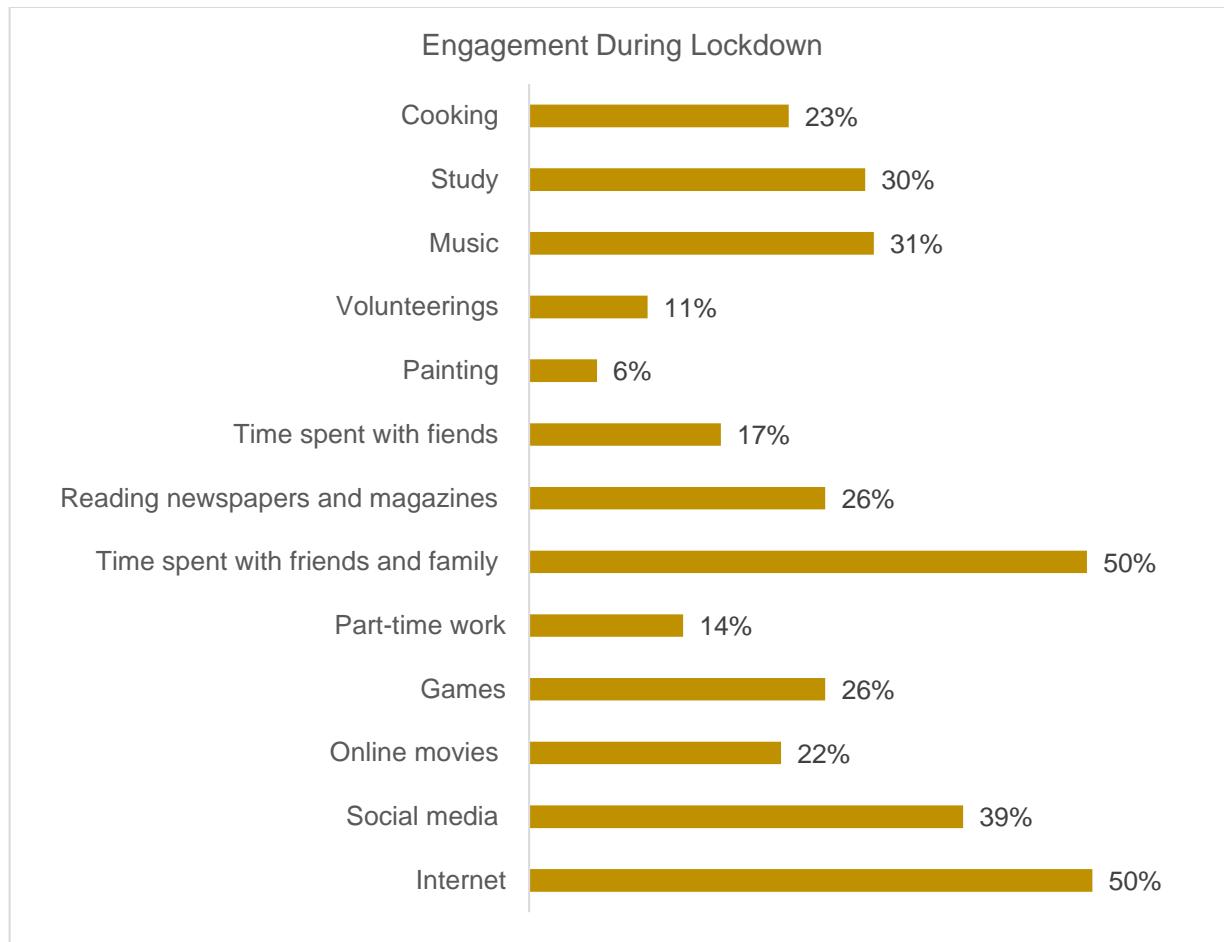
### 5.3. Psycho-social health and wellbeing

The unprecedented situation of lockdown and epidemic has impacted most of the population psychologically, resulting in adverse impact on health and wellbeing. 37 percent youth and adolescents agreed that they are suffering from increased psychological stress due to lockdown and pandemic. Interestingly, 15 percent of the youth have shown interest in extending counselling support to others as part of volunteering activities after lockdown. 34 percent youth and adolescent have faced violence during lockdown, such as, shouting or threatening (28 percent), beating (8 percent), abusive language (8 percent), physical abuse (4 percent) and sexual abuse (1 percent). Agencies working in youth counselling domain must use digital medium for supporting youth and adolescent in need of psychological support.

- Female and tribal respondents have faced shouting and threatening issues
- Single mother/father, widow and divorced are facing issues related to abusive language as well as physical abuse
- Beating, abusive language and physical abuse is higher in focus districts compared to secondary districts
- Tribals are facing higher incidence of beating compared to rural and urban areas



Over 50 percent respondent have acknowledged that they are using internet and spending time with friends and family. Youth are also engaging in other activities like social media (39 percent), cooking (23 percent), music (31 percent), painting (6 percent), reading newspapers (26 percent), and studying (30 percent). Following chart indicates engagement of youth and adolescent during lockdown.

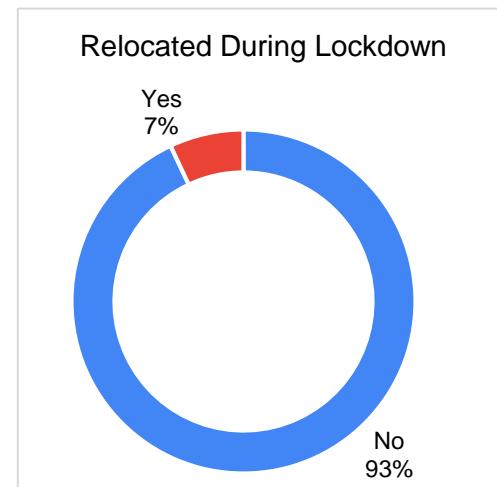


#### 5.4. Social issues

The COVID19 pandemic has forced governments across the world to lockdown citizens in their houses and literally stop every activity in all spheres. The lockdown imposed in March impacted the schools and adolescents during exam period and created huge confusion for students, academic institutes and parents. The daily wage earners were left with option but to stay at home without any source of income.

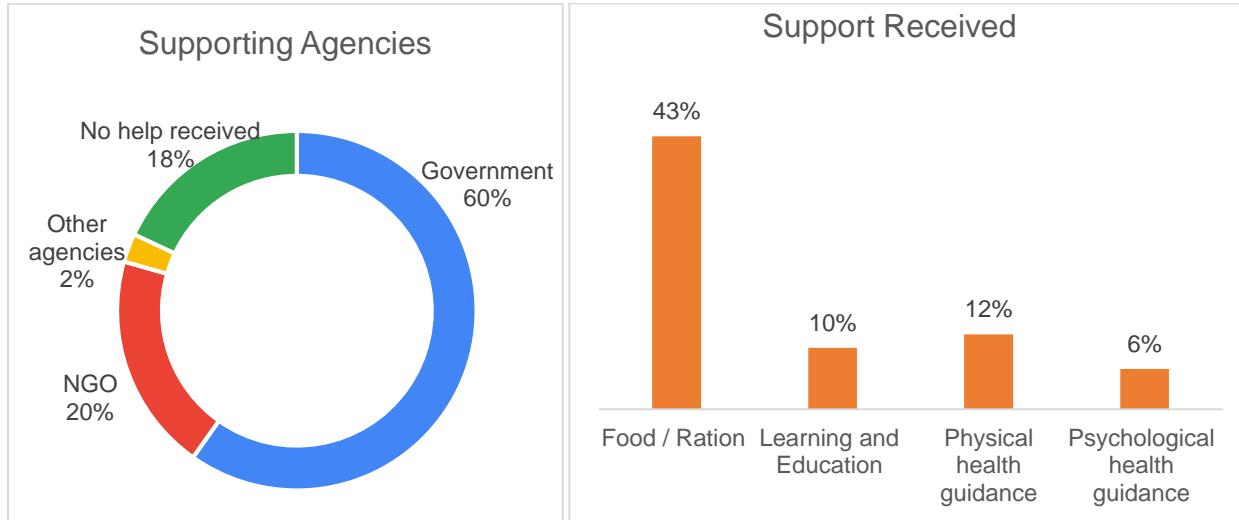
Our survey noted that 37 percent respondents had savings for less than two weeks. This dreadful situation pushed many to relocate to places of safety and support. 7 percent respondents confirmed that they had to relocate during lockdown and some of the respondents also highlighted that their family members are stuck in other locations and need support in bringing them back home.

Rising to the occasion, non-government organizations and government agencies have supported many deprived and vulnerable individuals. 60 percent respondents confirmed that

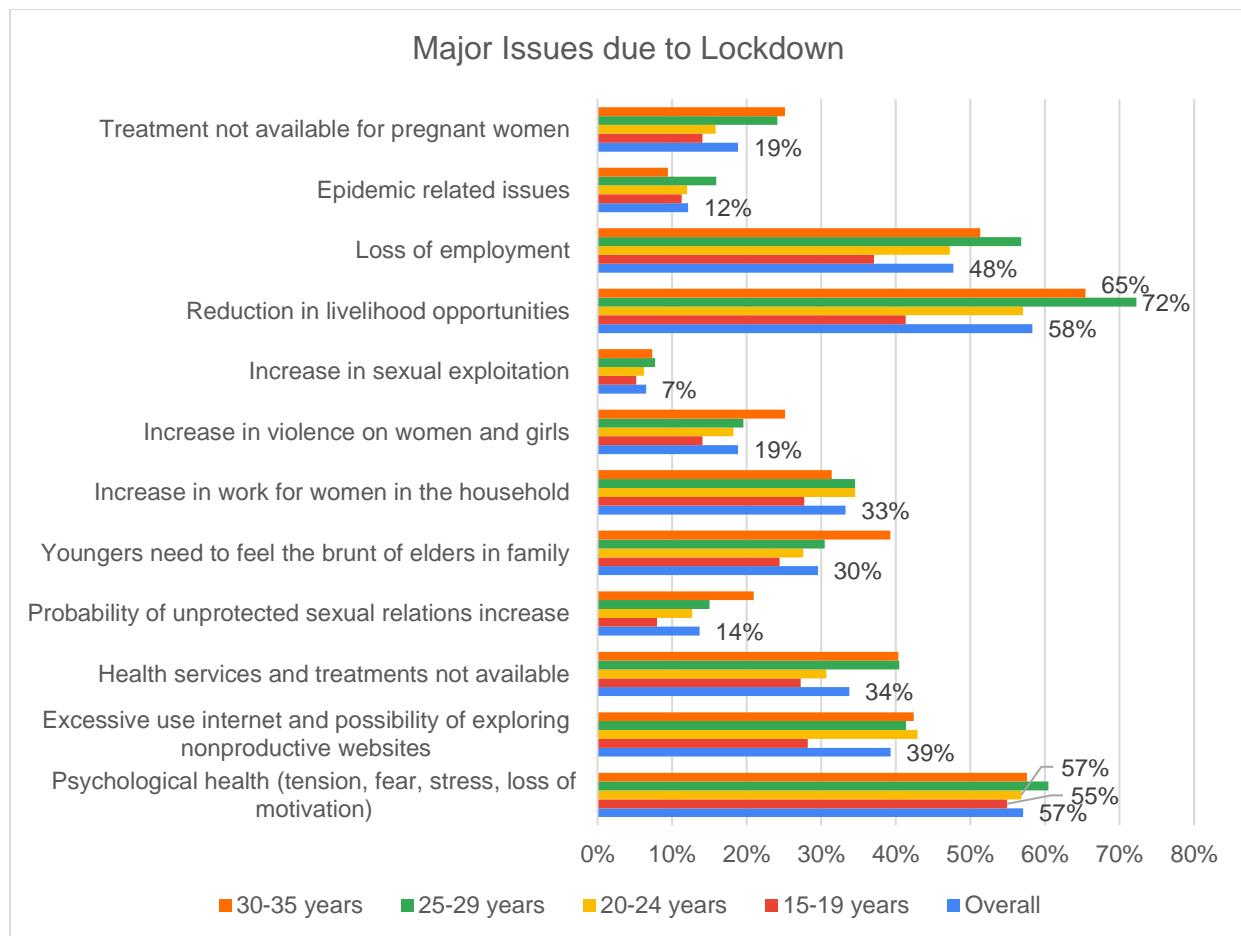




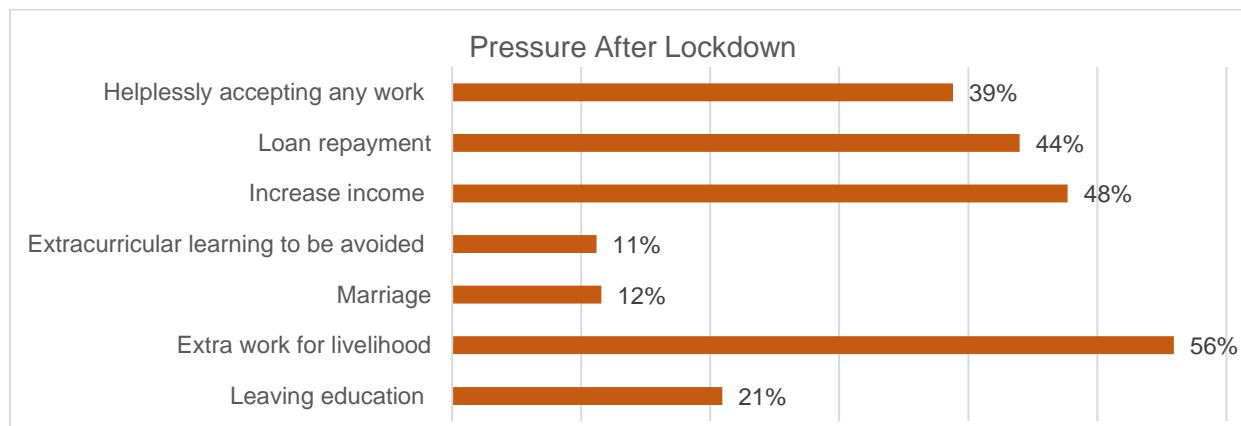
they received help from government while 22 percent received help from the NGOs and other agencies such as corporate foundations through their CSR efforts. Most critical support during lockdown period was supply of food, 43 percent confirmed receiving food and ration from various agencies. Apart from this, 10 percent received support for learning, 12 percent for physical health guidance and 6 percent received psychological guidance.



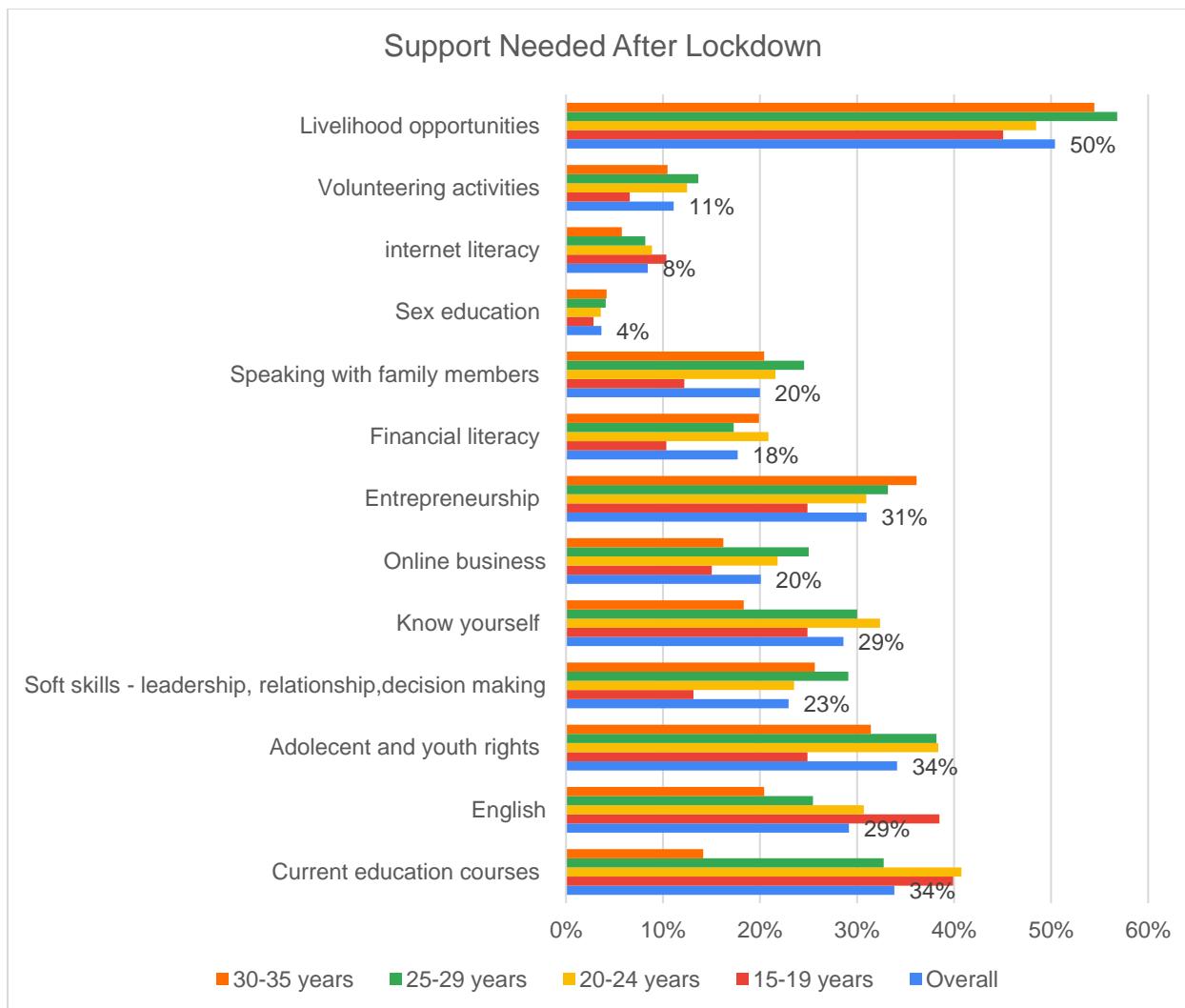
Our survey also tried to identify major issues that the youth and adolescent are facing due to lockdown. Following chart indicates issues faced by different age groups. Reduction in livelihood opportunities (58 percent), loss of existing employment (48 percent) and psychological health (57 percent) are the most prominent issues raised by the adolescent and youth. Psychological stress, tension, fear, loss of motivation has been the major issue for the age group of 15-19 years (55 percent) and 20-24 years (57 percent). Whereas reduction in livelihood opportunities was major concern for age group of 25-29 year (72 percent) and 30-35 years (65 percent). Apart from this, excessive use of internet (39 percent), unavailability of health services (34 percent), increased work for women in the household (33 percent), increased violence against women and girls (19 percent), increase in unprotected sexual relations (14 percent), and increase in sexual exploitation (7 percent) are noted by adolescent and youth.



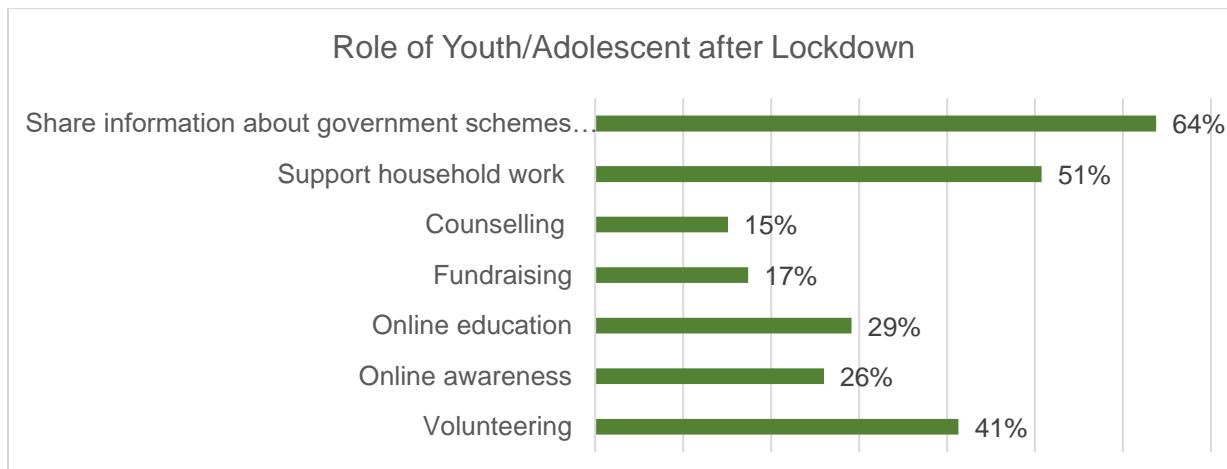
Due to issue of lockdown, 56 percent youth think that they will have to work extra hours and 39 percent think that they will have to accept any work that comes their way. Also, there will be pressure of loan repayment (44 percent), leaving school education (21 percent) and other extracurricular learning such as dance and music classes (11 percent).



Youth need support on finding livelihood opportunities (50 percent), entrepreneurship (31 percent) and online business (20 percent). Apart from this, 34 percent youth want more information about youth rights, soft skills (23 percent), English (29 percent), financial literacy (18 percent), internet literacy (8 percent) and sex education (4 percent)

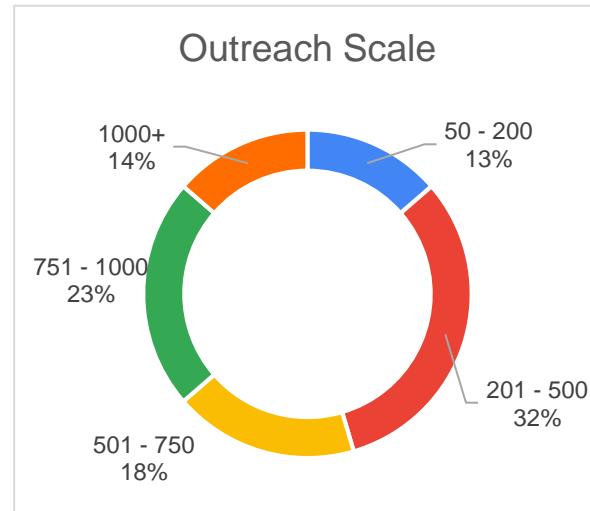


Adolescent and youth understand their responsibility and express keen interest in supporting society through various programmes such as; sharing information about government schemes (64 percent), supporting household work (51 percent), volunteering (41 percent), awareness (26 percent), fund raising (17 percent) and counselling (15 percent).

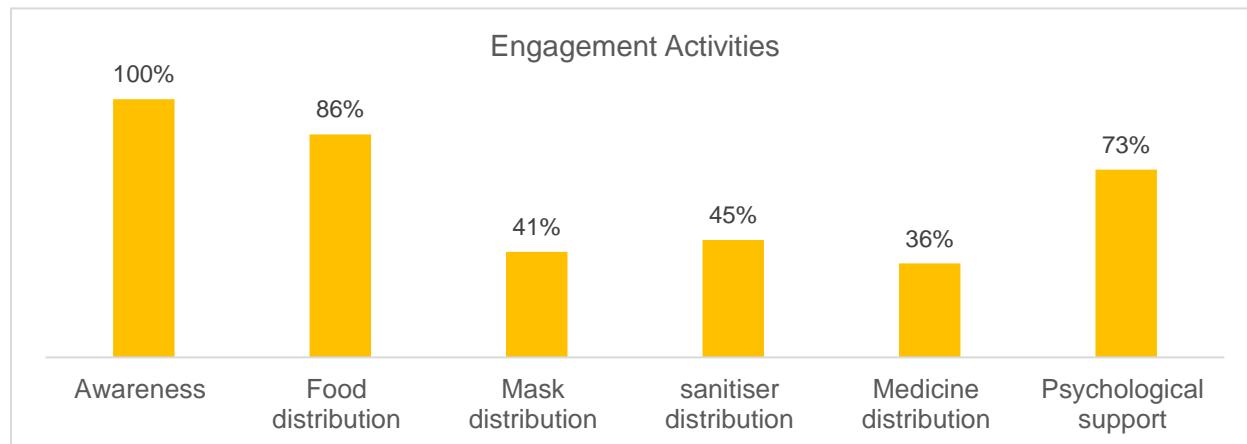


## 5.5. Insights from NGOs

The rapid assessment survey by Synergy Sansthan and partner agencies, also gathered response from NGOs working across Madhya Pradesh on issues of adolescent and youth. It was noted that while all of them are currently delivering their services for youth and adolescent, 18 percent organizations had not planned for such situation and had not resources allocated for this kind of emergency. It highlights the importance of risk planning and disaster management by organizations. Among the NGOs which responded to the survey, over 55 percent are engaged with over 500 youth and adolescent each. Considering average outreach for each range, these 22 NGOs are directly working with over 13,000 youths and adolescents. Details about the NGOs who shared inputs for the rapid assessment are provided in the Annexure 8.1.

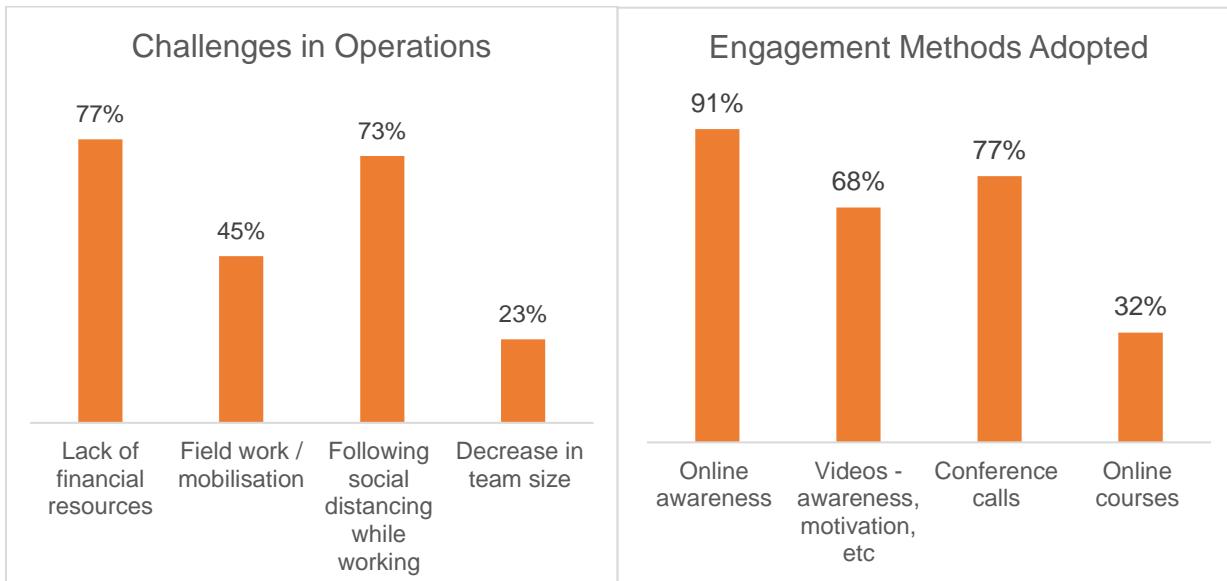


All the responding NGOs are currently engaged in awareness activities. Distribution of essentials such as food (86 percent), masks (41 percent), sanitizer (45 percent), medicines (36 percent) are key services provided by NGOs. Also, 73 percent NGOs are providing psychological support for the vulnerable.



According to our conversation with NGOs, majority of the agencies will face challenges in financing the scale of work required (77 percent) due to changed working guidelines for the sector. Apart from financing, field work/ mobilization will be challenging (45 percent), working within social distancing guidelines for engagement with youth can be particularly difficult (73 percent). NGOs may also face issues with lack of staff and decreased team size (23 percent) due to extensive field work expectations. In view of these challenges, NGOs have adopted technology to support their operations. 91 percent NGOs are using online awareness campaigns and delivering education courses online (32 percent). Organizations are also producing videos for awareness, motivation, etc. to engage with the target audience. As

observed in majority of social media platforms, 77 percent organizations are conducting conference calls and webinars to ensure continuous engagement with the youth and adolescents.



As observed in the responses by youth, NGOs also confirmed that youth are keen to engage in this challenging situation for supporting society. 95 percent organizations have observed that the youth are participating in relief work, 86 percent are supporting family work, and 45 percent want to work on fundraising.



Synergy Sansthan team observed that most of the organizations are focusing on awareness and motivation of the youth as it remains the most pressing subject during lockdown period. Irritation due to inability to pursue education as well as loss of job opportunities and bleak economic view has created an environment of frustration. This environment is also leading to instances of violence at domestic level which need to be addressed at a broad level by engaging with parents and other elder members from the families. Apart from this, creation of opportunities such as small enterprises for mushroom cultivation, making utility items, etc. provision of healthcare services is seen as immediate expectation from the NGOs.



## 6. Recommendations

The survey highlighted that the youth and adolescent are facing challenges in learning, livelihood, stress, anxiety, uncertainty, violence, exploitation. However, youth are also motivated to solve the challenges and support other sections of the society. The Synergy Sansthan team and the partner organizations have collectively analyzed data to gather insights into responses from adolescent and youth. Also inputs from other NGOs have helped in triangulating the insights and understand potential solutions that can help resolve concerns faster. The team has concluded with following recommendations in alignment with objectives of the study.

**a. Share accurate information about COVID19 and tools for adopting social distancing**

Accurate information about COVID19 disease and measures to avoid the disease need to be shared with people regularly, without creating fear about the disease. Knowledge and adoption of social distancing practices need to be taught according to different age groups and professions.

**b. Enable learning with social distancing and remotely**

Academic institutes, technology service providers, parents, students and education sector experts should come together to develop solutions for remote learning suitable for different age groups. There can be module essential for growth of children which need social gathering. However, appropriate social distancing measures along with modifications in pedagogy can help impart requisite learnings.

**c. Economic support for education and vocational skills training**

As 82 percent respondents informed that they do not have the funds or do not know if they will enough funds for continuing education after lockdown, it is important to make provision for supporting adolescent and youth for education. Also, as only 3 percent youth have formal vocational skills, scholarship support for such courses can enable youth in gaining employment.

**d. Financial literacy to build economic resilience and revive faster**

Financial literacy is found to be critical as most of the population is not aware of the existing financial instruments. Basic financial literacy can help household plan their budget and select appropriate instrument for life and health insurance, savings tools such as fixed deposits and mutual funds, pension schemes, etc. This will enable households to sustain economic shocks and revive faster.

**e. COVID19 enterprise incubator for digital, healthcare, hygiene, counselling sector innovations**

Special incubator for enterprises solving COVID19 related issues can be started. Opportunities in hygiene, protection, technologies for social distancing in public transport, offices and other public places, remote learning and medical services, etc.



**a. Develop labour register like UrbanClap**

Online register of labour with skillset information can be created which can be accessed by various businesses as per their requirement. This register can take hints from service provider such as UrbanClap who provide skilled services in metropolitan and urban areas for specific services. Similar model can be developed for other skillsets and other regions such as rural and semi-urban areas for creating better opportunities for the masses.

**a. Provide tech-enabled healthcare and tele-medicine**

COVID19 has exposed the vulnerabilities in public healthcare services of India. It is also recognized that the COVID19 disease will remain for longer duration and immediate solution may not be possible. In this view, improving healthcare services and telemedicine solutions can help improve serve large population in India.

**f. Provide qualified psycho-social counselling services to improve motivation, avoid depression and reduce domestic violence**

Increasing social and economic stress on different parts of the society will increase the psychological stress on adolescent and youth. Qualified psycho-social support at the right time for right person can save further damage to the individual. NGOs can play key role in developing new models of psycho-social support and implement them in association with qualified professionals. This will help in improving motivation, avoiding depression and reduce domestic violence.

**g. Create platform for volunteering by youth and adolescent**

Many adolescent and youth are keen to support the society by volunteering for different causes. A platform for enrolling and sharing activities with volunteers can channelize the collective energy in right direction and serve the society better.

**h. Facilitate access to government schemes and youth rights**

Youth can play key role is sharing information about government schemes with larger population. This can be through a mobile application or online portal which enlists all government and non-government schemes that can be available by needy. Also, this platform can share information about rights by youth and other sections of the society.



## 7. Acknowledgement

The rapid assessment was conducted by Synergy Sansthan in collaboration with following organizations. Their coordination and inputs were invaluable for development of this report.

### **A. National Institute of Women Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD)**

NIWCYD is a mass base organization working currently in more than 5000 villages and urban poor settlements in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and some parts of Uttarakhand. Organizations core area of work is livelihood, child rights, gender justice, youth empowerment and community institution building.

### **B. Pahal Jan Sahayog Vikas Sansthan**

Pahal has been working in Indore city and associated with other districts of Madhya Pradesh since 2003. It has vast experience on working with gender issues including gender-based studies in Indore, Barwani, khargone, Burhanpur and Bhopal. Pahal is working with youth and women on umbrella of issues like health, education child rights, gender, livelihood and Constitutional values. Pahal's working strategy is capacity building, information dissemination through publication, campaigning by networking and rehabilitation work with community intervention.

### **C. Agrini**

Agrini began operations in 2009 with the mission of "quality education for all". Since last 10 years it has worked to innovate, implement and advocate multiple initiatives to ensure quality education for every child. Based in forest area of Pench Tiger Reserve, Agrini works with government school students and teachers and engage them with innovative learning methods like experiential learning. Agrini also works on awareness and understanding about Indian Constitution and its values along citizens.

### **D. Social Health and Education Development Organization (SHEDO)**

SHEDO was established in the Timarni block of Harda district, Madhya Pradesh. Its value proposition is based on the organization's core belief that marginalised women, children and youth must be adequately empowered. In addition, they must possess enough self-esteem to independently face the world and its challenges.

We express our gratitude towards **Paul Hymlyn Foundation** (PHF) for their support and guidance in conducting this rapid assessment. Apart from these, we also acknowledge the support and time of numerous numbers of adolescent and youth to share their thoughts and information about current situation. We would like to acknowledge the time and effort by NGOs across Madhya Pradesh who shared their inputs with us. We at Synergy Sansthan, look forward to work with all stakeholders for supporting needy adolescent and youth across Madhya Pradesh.



## 8. Annexure

### 8.1. NGOs working with adolescent and youth in Madhya Pradesh

#	Name of NGO	Contact person	Districts of Operations	Outreach
1	NIWCYD	Rajeev Bhargava	Bhopal, 22 districts of MP	201 to 500
2	Synergy Sansthan (Synergy)	Ajay Pandit	Harda	1000+
3	Asra Samajik Lok Kalyan Samiti (ASLKS)	Shailesh Shrivastava	Dewas, Rajgadh, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dhar, Shajapur, Khandwa, Agar	1000+
4	Agrini	Navendu Mishra	Seoni	201 to 500
5	Jai Bharati Shiksha Kendra (JBSK)	Bharat Namdeo	Jabalpur	201 to 500
6	Rashtriya Yuva Sangathan (RYS)	Lalit Dubey	Anupapur, Sehdol, Umariya	1000+
7	Prasoon	Sudhir Bhargava	Bhopal	751 to 1000
8	Manners Support in Development (MSD)	Firdosh Khan	Shivpuri	751 to 1000
9	Community Development Centre (CDC)	Ameen Charles	Balaghat	201 to 500
10	Anhad Pravah (AP)	Kuldeep Sikarwar	Indore	501 to 750
11	Samarpan Foundation (SF)	Pawan Kumar	Neemuch	50 to 200
12	Sankalp Samaj Sevi Sanstha (Sankalp)	Sandesh Bansal	Gwalior, Panna	751 to 1000
13	Pahal Jan Sahyog Vikas Sansthan (PJSVS)	Praveen Gokhale	Indore, Barwani, Khargoan, Burhanpur	751 to 1000
14	Muskaan	Seema Deshmukh	Bhopal	501 to 750
15	Sathiya Welfare Society (SWS)	Smriti	Bhopal, Betul, Shajapur	751 to 1000
16	AAS	Waseem Iqbal	Indore	201 to 500
17	SHEDO	Ritesh Gohiya	Harda	501 to 750
18	Ahimsa Welfare Society (AWS)	Arun Satalkar	Rajgarh	201 to 500
19	Sambhav Social Service Organisation (SSSO)	Nabil Singh	Gwalior, Bhind, Indore, Sheopur	501 to 750
20	Gram Seva Samiti (GSS)	N K Choudhari	Hoshangabad	50 to 200
21	Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti (Spandan)	Seema Prakash	Khandwa	50 to 200
22	Bharat Calling (BC)	Sandeep Mehto	Itarsi	201 to 500



## 8.2. NGO's engagement with youth and adolescent

Name of NGO	Engagement Activities						Engagement Method		
	Awareness	Food distribution	Masks distribution	Sanitizer distribution	Medicine distribution	Psychological support	Online Awareness	Videos	Conference calls
NIWCYD	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Synergy	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
ASLKS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agrini	✓	✓					✓		✓
JBSK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RYS	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Prasoon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
MSD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CDC	✓	✓				✓			✓
AP	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
SF	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Sankalp	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
PJSVS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Muskaan	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
SWS	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
AAS	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
SHEDO	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
AWS	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
SSSO	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GSS	✓						✓		✓
Spandan	✓								
BC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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