
Fact Sheet

Pandemic, Poverty and People- Reality of the Rural Poor of Sanand Villages, Ahmedabad District, Gujarat during the Lockdown



Introduction

Covid 19 a public health emergency was declared as a pandemic on 11th March 2020 by the World Health Organisation. Till now anywhere between four and eight million people could have died all over the world, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in recent history. In India till date more than 25 million people has been infected by the virus and nearly 280 thousand have succumbed to death. At the same time the country has also witnessed a huge economic shock due to the pandemic.

The country wide lockdown started on March 24, 2020 at just few hours notice and continued till 31st May 2020. This situation has affected people's physical, economic, mental and social health. Millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future. Many of them and their families went hungry. During the lockdown, CHETNA's implementation projects were also affected to a large extent.

A survey was conducted in January 2021(282 women respondents) to understand, how COVID-19 pandemic has affected their lives especially during lockdown in 6 villages of Sanand block of Ahmedabad district. CHETNA was implementing project in these villages to strengthen the Early Childhood Education component providing a safe and conducive environment and learning opportunities for holistic development of children between three to six years in Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Anganwadies. The project ended in March 2021.

The survey tools were approved by the Ethics committee of CHETNA.

Survey Area and Methodology

Born Learning Campaign project was a PAN India initiative of the United Way India network to provide preschool education to the Anganwadi children to prepare them for school readiness. In Gujarat, the project aimed at providing a safe and conducive environment for holistic development of the pre schoolers in 30 Anganwadi centres (AWCs) of Sanand block of Ahmedabad District .Sanand is an industrial area and Covid -19 affected the people in this areas too. Many have lost their jobs and daily wage labourers were in crisis .

The survey was conducted in six villages of Sanand block among the 11 villages we were working. The survey was done in Pillupura , Waghjipura , Jivanpura , Chacharwadi Vaasna, Changodhar , Sanathal. The survey included four Gram Panchyats Moraiya ,Navapura, Sanatahal and Changodhar. The main source of livelihood in this villages are farming, daily wage labourer and working in factories. The area is deprived of basic facilities such as solid waste collection and safe drinking water supply. The water supply is done twice or thrice a week. They rely on the private hospital and Sanathal PHC for illness and for child birth mostly prefer private hospitals

We reached out to 73 pregnant women, 185 lactating women and 30 parents of undernourished children and sought information from them about employment or availability of work, access to health care and coping mechanisms before, during and after lockdown.

- The Indian Government announced complete lockdown from 25 March 2020 to curb the spread of corona virus pandemic, initially for 21 days but extended it up to 31 May.
- During the next six months until end of November 2020 lockdown was lifted in a phased manner that helped some people to earn livelihood.
- Since December 2020, although there are certain restrictions in place, there is freedom of movement and many services are available.

The respondents were asked to recall their experiences during these three phases. We acknowledge some possibility of bias and reporting error in the data presented since they are based on self-reports of respondent women interviewed.

Highlights

- There was a considerable decrease in the family members earning during lockdown. Pre lockdown from 282 families, 506 members were earning which reduced to 122 during lockdown. Out of 41 women earning members only 5 women could continue earning during lock down and out of 465 male earning members only 117 continue earning during the lockdown.
- 45% families borrowed money. Majority of them borrowed against mortgaging their jewellery or taking loans with interest. Majority or 90% borrowed money for the household and medical expenses.
- Only 12% families experienced food insufficiency during lockdown partly because they received grain kits consist of cereals, pulses and oil, ration of three months of lockdown. Also traditionally in rural area families do store grains to use throughout the year.
- However, there was a considerable decrease in intake of milk and fruits during lock down.
- During lockdown 45% pregnant women did not receive ANC. All the deliveries were done in institutes, private and government hospital.
- Only 21% of children below two years received immunization during lockdown compared to 89% post lockdown.

Livelihood:

Earning members	Pre Lockdown (Before 25 March 2020)	During lockdown (During 25 March-31 st May)	Post lockdown (After 1 st June 2020)
Number of respondents	282	282	282
Total Earning Persons in families	506	122	491
No. of earning Females	41	05	35
No. of earning Males	465	117	456
Reported ability to save from earnings	80	39	75

Borrowing during Lockdown

No of families who had borrowed money against Mortgage, taken loans with or without interest	127 (45%)
Average Rupees borrowed	INR 47422/-
Reason for Borrowing	
Household expenses and medical expenses	114 (90%)

Food Sufficiency during Lockdown

Food and Nutrition	Pre Lockdown	During lockdown	Post lockdown
	No of Families 282		
Families reported having sufficient food	276 (98%)	247 (88%)	277 (98%)
%reported consumption of:			
Grains	275 (98%)	279 (99%)	280 (99%)
Pulses	266 (94%)	265 (94%)	269 (95%)
Milk/Milk products	261 (93%)	249 (88%)	267 (95%)
Vegetables everyday	190 (67%)	56 (20%)	187 (66%)
Weekly Vegetables	06 (2%)	62 (22%)	11 (4%)
Fruits everyday	23 (8%)	08 (3%)	21 (7%)
Weekly fruits	78 (28%)	35 (12%)	73 (26%)

Morbidity and Death

Illness and Death	During lockdown	Post lockdown No of families
	No of families 282	
Any Illness in family members	32	19
Average medical Expenditure	INR 20477/-	INR 24366/-
Death in family	02	06

Maternal care

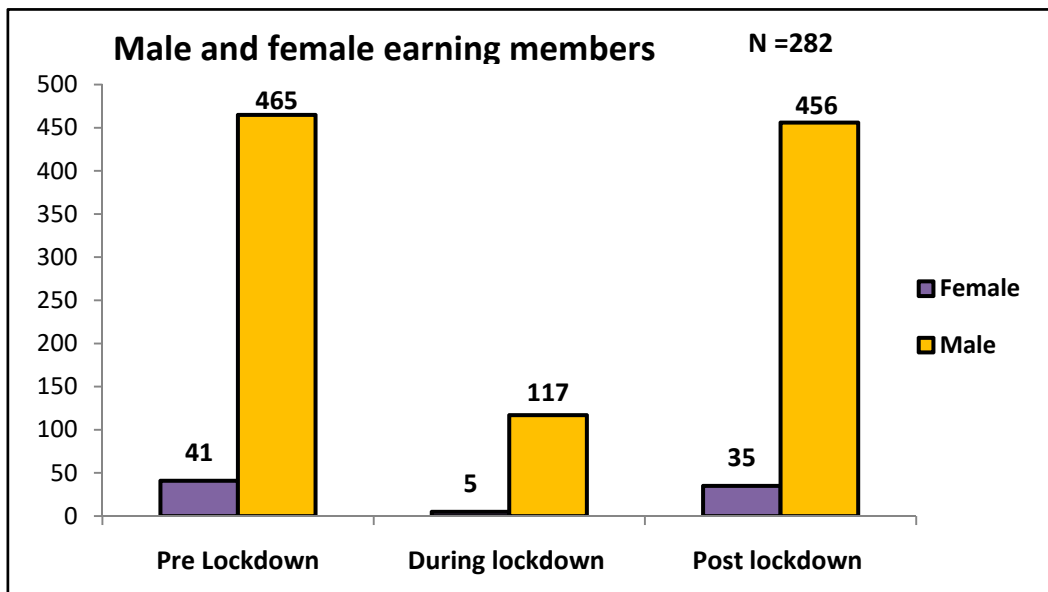
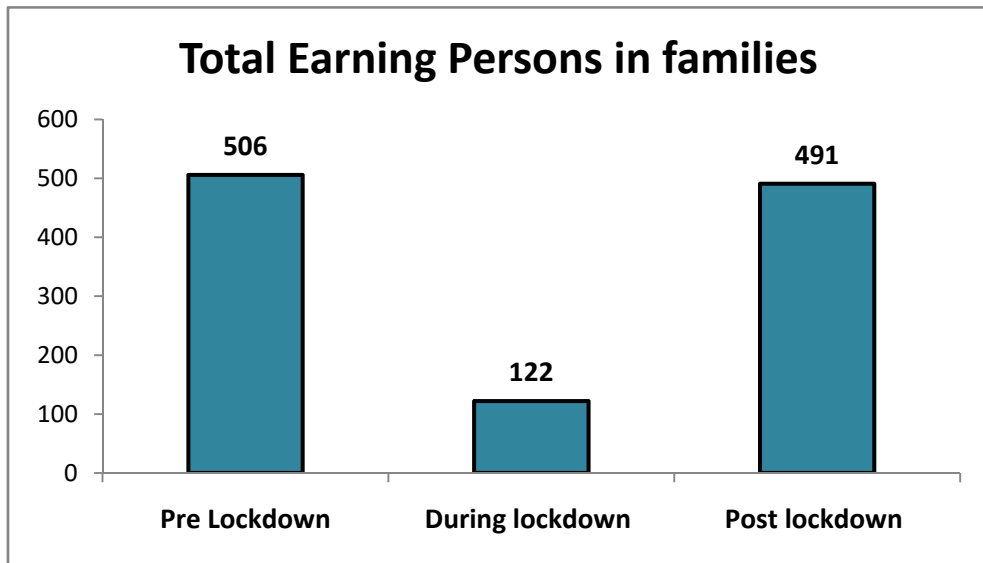
Antenatal care(ANC)and delivery	During lockdown	Post lockdown
	N=224	N=192
ANC received	123 (55%)	149 (78%)
Deliveries of pregnant Women	16 (7%)	90 (47%)
In government hospital	4 (25%)	21 (23%)
In private clinics	12 (75%)	69 (77%)
At Home	0	0

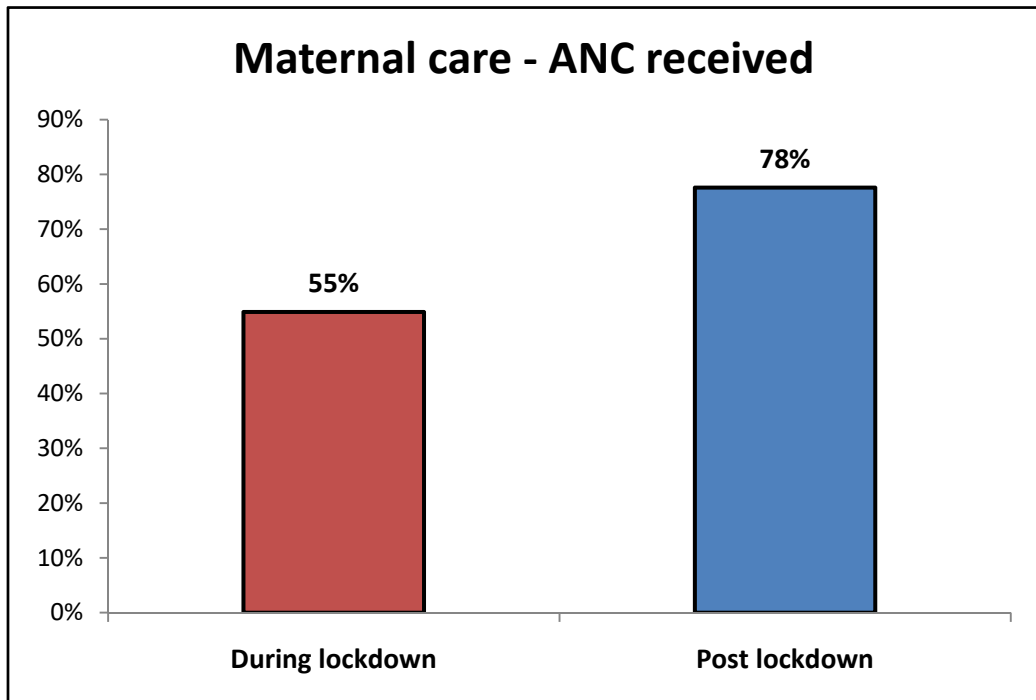
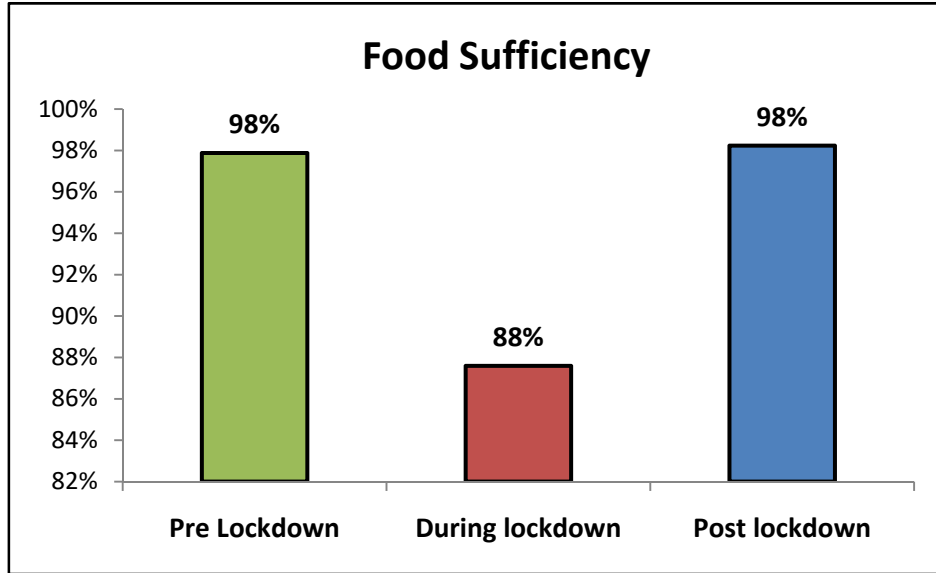
Childcare

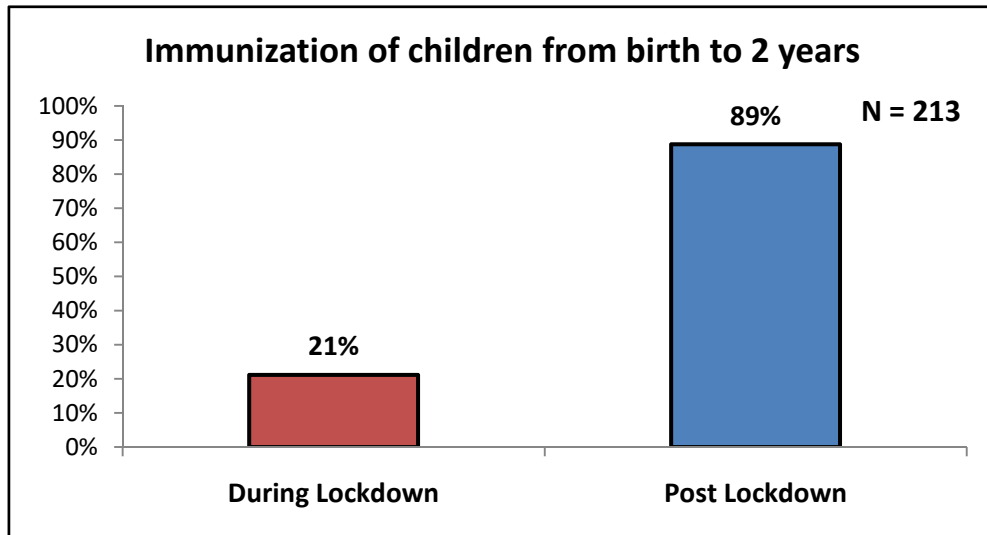
Immunization of Children	During Lockdown N=213	Post Lockdown N=213
Immunization of children from Birth to 2years	45 (21%)	189 (89%)

Covid related awareness

Source of Information	N=282
Number of families received information aboutCovid19	220
Source of Information	
From Health care workers	88
From CHETNA (NGO)	10
Others	122







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