



Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Karnataka

Conducted by

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April 2020

Background

Centre for Child and the Law (CCL), National Law School of India University (NLSIU) has been engaged in addressing the issues pertaining to food and nutrition insecurities through policy and socio-legal research, studies, law reform, capacity building functionaries and direct engagement with the community. COVID 19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown has created an unprecedented crisis for food security situation that needs to be assessed and analysed for ensuring that the we continue to address this food insecurities and move towards the realisation of right to food of children and the marginalised communities in the most effective way.

We hope that the present study and similar assessments being undertaken by other groups will help us move in the right direction and keep us focused on the goal of ensuring food security for all with a specific focus on children in the altered social, economic, and political context painted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

CCL team¹

Acronyms

ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
AWW	Anganawadi Worker
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease of 2019
FPS	Fair Price Shop
GP	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
MDMS	Mid-Day Meal Scheme
MGNREGA, 2005	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NFSA, 2013	National Food Security Act, 2013
PDO	Panchayat Development Officer
SDMC	School Development and Monitoring Committee
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System

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Introduction

The entire world is in a precarious situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic breaking out and spreading across borders. This has been pushing the national and provincial governments to take measures to contain the virus. One of the methods being adopted by most countries including India is social distancing and putting the entire population into quarantine. This translates into complete shut-down of the country and its economy leaving many marginalised people unemployed and out on the streets without basic social security. The lockdown commenced on 24th March 2020, initially to last till 15th April which got further extended till 3rd May 2020 with relaxation to agriculture, allied activities and other manufacturing industries and MGNREGA works in rural areas where cases of COVID-19 were not reported. These relaxations came in place with effect from 20th April 2020. Few more relaxations were announced on 24th April 2020, where standalone shops could open up in non-containment zones with 50% capacity and following social distancing norms. Quarantine and lockdown is an inevitable measure for the entire country as a strategy of survival, it has left large population at economic periphery at high risk of vulnerability where procuring proper meals timely has become a huge question. The lockdown has affected the fundamental rights of the marginalised people who are being forced to go hungry affecting their right to food and nutrition.

Rationale of the study

To help those most affected by the lockdown, the Central and State Governments have taken measures to ensure supply of food grains and give cash support to identified people. A number of orders have been passed by the governments in this regard. Those already obtaining benefits under various schemes are also left at a lurch as the service delivery outlets have been shut down and are rendered inaccessible. To address this, the state government has issued directions to home deliver the dry rations to the beneficiaries. But how well has that been implemented? Is that ensuring the right to food and nutrition security of the beneficiaries or is it insufficient? To understand the issues at the ground with regard to food and nutrition security, a need was felt to conduct a rapid assessment in 5 districts in the state of Karnataka.

Objectives of the study

- To understand the immediate impact of COVID-19 lockdown on food and nutrition security of the marginalised and poor rural population in 5 districts of Karnataka.
- To understand the effectiveness of specific measures announced by the Central and Karnataka State government in terms of providing rations, food, healthcare for children and women through Anganawadis, schools and public distribution system under ICDS, MDMS and TPDS schemes.
- To document first person accounts of the right holders/beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the villages and their expectations from the State.
- To provide recommendations to the local, State and Central Governments to ensure food and nutrition security and share the same with civil society institutions.

Methodology

Considering the nature of the study and the urgency of conducting the rapid assessment, largely a qualitative methodology was adopted for the study. Secondary data was drawn from

the media reports that were analysed to gauge a preliminary understanding of the ground situation. Tools for collection of data were developed based on this understanding that helped corroborating and substantiating the information available in the public domain. Empirical data was collected from respondents drawn from 100 villages in 5 districts of Karnataka. Out of which, 4 of these districts are located in Northern Karnataka and have an abysmal track record in terms of food and nutrition security.

Through purposive and convenient sampling, respondents were selected from the identified categories based on the schemes under NFSA 2013. Qualitative and quantitative information was collected from right holders and related stakeholders mainly through telephonic interviews. Semi structured interview guides consisting of questions on their status, issues being faced by them and their opinions about the nature of relief work were administered to the interviewees².

Sample Size: A total of 152 respondents were interviewed from 5 districts. 2 respondents were drawn from each of the following categories. Beneficiaries of TPDS, FPS owners, Parents of children below 3 years, Parents of children going to AWCs, Pregnant women and lactating mothers, AWWs, ASHA workers, Anganawadi Supervisors, School students availing benefits under MDMS, Teachers in charge of MDMS, GP President, PDO, Daily wage workers, Small/marginal farmers and migrant workers who have returned home. 1 CDPO from each district was also interviewed.

Table 1 Respondents

Scheme	Target groups	Bidar	Vijayapura	Koppal	Raichur	Ramanagara	Total
Targeted Public Distribution System	Beneficiaries	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Fair Price Shop Owners	2	2	2	2	2	10
Integrated Child Development Scheme and Maternity Benefit Scheme	Parents of child below 3 years	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Parents of child between 3-6 years	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers	2	2	2	2	2	10

² All tools are attached as Annex I

	Anganawadi Workers	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Supervisors	2	2	2	2	1	9
	Child Development Project Officer	1	1	1	1	1	5
	ASHA worker	2	2	2	2	2	10
Mid-Day Meal Scheme	School Students	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Teachers	2	2	2	2	2	10
Village Panchayat	Village Panchayat Presidents	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Panchayat Development Officers	2	2	2	2	2	10
Other affected groups	Daily wage workers	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Returned Migrant workers	2	2	2	2	0	8
	Marginal farmers	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Total	31	31	31	31	28	152

First person accounts were documented by recording the responses of the right holders.

The study was completed between 11th and 27th of April 2020. The sample is directly representative of the 1,92,505 population (27 Gram Panchayats, 200 AWCs, 1,36,535 women and 28,456 children aged between 0 and 14) in 5 districts of Karnataka³.

³ More details are available in Annex II

Limitations

As the sample size is small and limited to only 5 districts in the state, it does not cover all the issues faced by the marginalised population but it gives a general picture of the situation faced by the marginalised communities in the state. Considering the urgency of the situation, the entire study was completed within a short period of 15 days. This includes conceptualisation of the study, preparation of the data collection tools, data collection, processing, analysis and documentation. Most of the interviews were conducted over phone and not in person. Whilst utmost care was taken in documenting the interviews and audio recordings were also done, the possibility of any crucial information missing out due to above mentioned limitations from the report cannot be completely ruled out.

Key Findings

This section reflects on the major findings of the rapid assessment.

Problems in accessing the benefits

Schools in the state were shut even before the formal lockdown was announced and this deprived school going children of the mid-day meals as well. This also meant early closure of Anganawadi centres and suspension of all the health, nutrition and immunisation services for young children and pregnant and lactating mothers.

Saraswathi, a 28 years old pregnant woman has 3 girls and lives in Amlapur village, Bidar Taluk. She and her husband are agriculture labourers earning about Rs 160 and Rs 300 per day respectively and this is what she had to say “I am pregnant, in this lockdown I am getting only rice, dal, egg and milk powder.... less nutritious and quantity is also not sufficient, before lockdown I was getting cooked food and milk, chikki, green gram etc.”

Although, with a view to partially address this issue, the Central and State Governments have given directions that dry rations in lieu of cooked food should be delivered to doorsteps⁴, it was found that schools in Bidar and Anganwadi centres in Raichur were the only among those that have followed this. In the remaining districts, parents and children had to go to the Anganwadi centres and schools to collect the dry rations and this resulted in many of them not being able to access this service owing to the travel restrictions.

In Ramanagara district, dry rations were not provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers. The beneficiaries are asked to maintain social distancing and wear masks while collecting dry rations.

In Vijayapura, food grains were not being distributed in all the schools in equal measurement. In some schools only rice was distributed. The students demanded pulses when

they noticed that pulses were being distributed along with rice in other schools in the neighbourhood.

The fair price shops were not open in Koppal from morning to evening. On an average, the fair price shop is open for 6 hours during a day in this lockdown period. In Vijayapura and

⁴ MWCD order F. No 13/5/2020-CD-II dated 30th March 2020 and Government of Karnataka Order No. EP 17 MMS 2020 dated 20th March 2020

Koppal, the FPS owners asked the beneficiaries to get their ration cards compulsorily to avail ration whereas in the other districts, this was not the case. In Koppal and Bidar, entitlements were denied due to failure to capture biometrics and other technical issues associated with Aadhar. In Vijayapura and Koppal, money was collected to distribute the free ration as announced by the Central Government. In one case, the beneficiary was charged Rs. 20/- additionally for a carry bag.

As regards the maternity cash entitlement, it was reported that the fresh registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the Mathrushree schemes were temporarily suspended as prominence was given only to distribution of food. Continuation of these schemes would have provided financial assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers to purchase medicines and the necessary nutritional supplements.

Impact on Quantity and quality and related issues

With regard to the quantity of food/food grains in AWCs, for children aged between 6 months and 3 years, the quantity of food grains provided was inadequate. Rations for 2 months were distributed only in Raichur and in other districts it was sufficient either for 15 days or 1 month. Eggs were distributed only in two districts (Raichur and Bidar) and the number of eggs distributed was highly insufficient. No amount was given in lieu of eggs.

Food grains in lieu of hot cooked meals provided to children aged between 3 and 6 years lasts for hardly a month and the quantity provided is also insufficient. Only Koppal and Ramanagara districts have provided food items like groundnuts, semolina, jaggery etc., and the other districts have only provided the beneficiaries with milk powder and rice. Eggs are also provided only in Raichur and Ramanagara. But in these districts too, the quantity of food grains and the variety provided is insufficient and does not address the nutrition concerns of the children. Eggs have not been provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers and mostly rice, milk powder, pulse and jaggery have been distributed. As an exception, eggs are distributed in Raichur and Bidar.

Rathna Etthinmane, a 33 year old widow with three young children is from Mudlapura village, Koppal district and a TPDS beneficiary. She depends on daily wages with meagre income of about Rs. 100 to 150 a day said, “We received only rice and wheat for two months from FPS but what is the use if we get only cereals, along with them providing dal, sugar, salt etc. would have helped us a lot during this time when nobody gives us any coolie; how can get money to buy other food items at least for eating two meals. Among us one family did not get ration at all. When asked the FPS owner he refused to give ration by saying that you have already taken in March as it is shown on our computer dated 21/03/2020. My neighbor was in tears as she has 6 people at home to feed.”

The dry rations given to school children as a substitute to the mid-day meals have not been any better with only rice and pulse being distributed. Milk powder (as a substitute for milk under Ksheera Bhagya) was not distributed in any of the five districts. The quantity of food grains provided lasts for 1 week in Raichur to 2 months in Vijayapura.

Under TPDS, only rice and wheat were distributed and the beneficiaries required oil, dal, spices, sugar and salt which are basic necessities. None of the beneficiaries who were spoken to appeared happy with the quantity of rations provided.

Affordability (livelihood, especially for daily wagers and small farmers)

Dhanraj, a 48 years old migrant worker lives in Chitta village with his wife, 6 sons and aged parents. He and his wife are both agricultural labourers. He frequently migrates to Hyderabad in search of work. Sometimes his wife and older sons accompany him. He earns around Rs600 per day on construction sites. He said,
“I was working in a soda factory in Hyderabad till now. Due to lockdown I managed to come back to my village. They kept me in the village quarantine for 14 days. After quarantine, I don’t have any work or money to feed my children. I can’t buy medicines for my sick mother. Rations what I got are not at all enough for my family. I am worried and not sure of our future.”

Daily wage labourers have been out of work and are unemployed since the country was locked down on 24th March 2020. Their daily wages used to vary from Rupees 200 to Rupees 600 before the lockdown. The general response from the labourers was that the wages they earned were not sufficient for the family, and they could not save much to sustain themselves during the present lean period. Only the daily wage workers we spoke to in Bidar were receiving essentials free of cost through government schemes. Beneficiaries from all 5 districts responded that they had received rations for the month of April 2020 through the FPS. They have received rice and wheat which would last for around 20 days in Bidar to 2 months in Ramanagara, Koppal and Vijayapura. The rations provided through FPS are limited and with no income at present, they are unable to purchase other essentials like salt, sugar and oil.

Small and marginal farmers whose crops are ready to be harvested are not able to reap the produce due to lack of availability of labour and transportation facilities. Many of them had availed loans from nationalised banks as well as private banks and are in a situation where they are unable to repay those

loans. In all 5 districts, the government has not taken any measures to provide transport and the minimum support price has been fixed only for *Toor Dal* in Bidar and Raichur. They are finding it difficult to harvest their crops due to unavailability of labour, sow seeds due to non-availability of seeds and transport the produce which has been harvested. This is adding to the stress faced by small farmers and making their future even more uncertain.

Migrants who have returned from other towns and cities are facing another set of challenges where there is uncertainty of going back to their old jobs, non-payment of dues by the employers, no savings as the expenditure surpassed income, among others. Due to the sudden announcement of lockdown, many of them had to walk back home or hitch a ride on lorries. All of them were quarantined after they returned to their villages. In Bidar, they were not receiving ration from FPS. None of the migrant labourers who had returned were receiving financial assistance under any relief measure undertaken by the Government. Few of the quarantined workers in Koppal and Vijayapura faced stigmatization in their villages. The Village task force had to intervene to convince and educate the community about the nature of COVID-19. With their livelihood affected in the worst possible manner, they are facing uncertainty not only about their future sustenance but their present survival as well.

The rural employment guarantee scheme is in force only in Ramanagara and Bidar districts even though the Central Government made an announcement that MGNREGA can

commence in rural areas with effect from 20th April 2020⁵.

Status of implementation of special benefits announced by central and state governments

To aid those affected due to the pandemic and lockdown, the central and state governments have announced numerous relief packages. One of the announced benefits was a credit transfer of Rupees 500 to women Jan Dhan Account holders for a period of 3 months (April to June 2020). Women in Koppal and Ramanagara districts did not receive this amount and in other districts they received this amount. Those registered under the *Ujjwala* scheme were receiving the amount regularly in their accounts.

Service delivery

Prashanth Belur, a 9th standard high school student lives in Chikkasindogi village. His father is no more. He has one elder brother studying in 10th class. His mother works as ASHA worker in the same village. “We didn’t get any rations from the school. We went to school several times but came back so disappointed. We were told that no rations supplied to the school, we students did not get free masks. We are afraid of Corona virus”

Those responsible for the implementation of the government orders were also spoken to and they shared the challenges they faced on the ground. Anganwadi workers, Supervisors, ASHA workers, School teachers, Panchayat development officers, Gram Panchayat presidents, and Child Development Project Officers were generally aware about the government orders. But the PDO and GP presidents in Bidar were unaware of the government orders. Village Task Force on COVID-19 was constituted in all 5 districts. The task force in Bidar, Ramanagara and Vijayapura districts was constituted of 8 members, Raichur had 15 members and Koppal had 32 members. The major responsibilities of this task force was to provide transport facilities to patients, create awareness on the importance of social distancing and hand washing, ensure that those who came from outside were quarantined and monitor the implementation of the government schemes.

When CDPOs were asked if they had distributed ration sufficient for three months, 4 of the 5 CDPOs interviewed responded that they had not, even though stocks were present in the godown, ration for only one month was distributed. 4 of the 5 CDPOs were taking measures to ensure that the beneficiaries were receiving all the entitlements assured by the government and all the CDPOs were supervising all matters in AWCs including distribution of ration. The major challenge they faced was transporting materials and door to door delivery of the entitlements. Teachers had taken the assistance of SDMCs to distribute grains to students but they were distributed in the schools and not delivered to their homes. ASHA workers in Koppal are cut off from the community as they are unable to visit the villages. For the deliveries, the ASHA workers faced a lot of trouble as ambulances were not available, Doctors were not available in PHCs and prominence was only given to cases of COVID-19. ASHA workers in Bidar and Vijayapura were not part of the Village task force on COVID-19. Vaccination was provided to children and pregnant women in Bidar, Ramanagara and Koppal districts. There has been a difficulty in procuring medicines in Koppal and Vijayapura districts. ICDS supervisors are in constant touch with the Anganwadi workers over phones as they are finding it difficult to go to the AWCs in person. AWWs took the assistance of helpers to distribute rations but still took nearly 3 to 6 days to complete the

⁵ Ministry of Rural Development Order – DO No. J-11060/4/2019-RE-VI (e-366816) dated 15th April 2020

distribution. Lack of transportation, masks and support from the community are few of the major problems faced by AWWs.

An Anganwadi Worker from Ojanahalli, Koppal district said, “Initially we did not know that the dry rations were supposed to be home delivered. Now we are going to children and mothers’ homes with whatever rations supplied and as instructed by the department. The beneficiaries are unhappy with the insufficient quantity and reduced number of food items. In addition to facing questions in some households the women refuse to take oil, salt and dry chillies together as they believe that taking dry chillies, salt and oil together bring bad luck and poverty home.”

Monitoring and Grievance Redressal

The Monitoring and Grievance Redressal system laid down under the National Food Security Act, 2013 is rendered defunct during this pandemic and lockdown. The State Food Commission is not functioning proactively to monitor service delivery. The toll free number is not functional and the entire system of grievance redressal and monitoring has collapsed at a time when its need is paramount.

Recommendations

On the basis of the assessment of the current situation following recommendations are being made for immediate action.

Immediate Relief through Schemes and Services

Following measures must be taken by the respective governments on an urgent basis to ensure that poor and marginalised to avert COVID19 driven hunger and malnutrition

- It is critical at this juncture to ensure immediate supply of food grains - rice, wheat, pulses, oil, spices, sugar and other essentials, for each household, in a quantity that lasts at least for three months. Ensure nutrition security by distributing diverse food grains like millets, ragi, oil, spices and other cooking items which are essential beyond rice and wheat through PDS during this crisis.
- Clear orders should be issued by Central and State Governments and the same should be proactively shared and publicised. Copy of these orders should be shared with the relevant departments, local self-government representatives, and frontline functionaries. FPS owners and village panchayats should be informed immediately about government orders and directions. Awareness among the community also needs to be created on this.
- A single window system for the door-step delivery of entitlements and services is to be put in place immediately to ensure effective delivery of services to all right holders. The related departments which are Departments of Food and Civil Supplies, Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Finance are to work in coordination to ensure there are no delays and the entitlements reach the needy. Task forces created at various levels must assume the role of coordinating with all the concerned departments.
- Benefits available from TPDS should be universalised and made available to anyone seeking support.

- Requirement of AADHAR/biometrics for TPDS and any other food security and nutrition related schemes should be relaxed, at least for next six months⁶.
- Sufficient quantities of required food grains, eggs, milk powder and medicines should be supplied at doorstep to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children from the Anganawadis during lockdown.
- Hot cooked meals for school students, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and for children in the Anganawadis cannot be provided during this time and instead, dry food items to be delivered to their door steps as per government orders. Instead of dividing food items into small portions as per individual measurement, packets of sufficient nutritious food items for longer duration may be distributed that can be prepared easily at home and milk powder should be provided to the students, children and mothers. This also helps AWWs and school teachers to manage distribution efficiently. Wherever it is absolutely not possible to distribute dry rations due to lack of availability of stock etc., food security allowance must be computed as per the National Food Security Act, 2013 and disbursed to the beneficiaries.
- Access to vaccinations and medicines by children, pregnant women and lactating mothers should be continued without hindrance during the lockdown by delivering and administering the vaccines at their doorsteps.
- Ensure continuance of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Mathrushree schemes to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Ensure that all cash transfers reach the right holders through their bank accounts on time and provide necessary facilities like mobile banks/ATMs for them to access their accounts.
- Increase the present advance payment of Rs. 500 per month to Rs. 1500 and disburse them for six months for Jan Dhan accounts.
- Ensure the availability of ambulance services to people in the villages in case of medical emergencies and deliveries.
- Allow all children in the villages to access Mid-day meals during the lockdown in this time of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Every FPS is assigned a minimum of 600 ration cards. Announce and distribute ration for 50 to 100 cards every day to ensure people do not panic and crowd at the FPS.

Health and social security

- Provide continuous supply of masks and other safety measures for all the frontline workers.
- Ensure health insurance, medical benefits and financial incentives to all the frontline workers.
- The contract jobs of all the frontline workers including sanitation workers should be made permanent.
- State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, State Food Commission, SDMCs and Village vigilance committees should proactively monitor the delivery of services on the ground.
- Ensure full daily wages to all job card holders under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act throughout the lockdown period, even if they cannot be provided with employment.

⁶ FPS owners may maintain a register with details of the distribution of food grains to the people who face issues with cards or technical connections and submit them to the government for transparency and accountability.

- The village task force besides quarantining returned migrants should ensure that food grains are supplied to their families and they do not go hungry.
- The village task force should ensure protection of quarantined people against any form of stigmatisation and discrimination.

Long term measures for sustainable food and nutrition security

- Decentralize storage of food grains from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies godowns to the district, block and village panchayat level for easing the process of distribution on time to the fair price shops.
- Decentralised procurement of the farm production from small and marginalised farmers should be enabled with immediate effect. This will help avoid wastage in this period of crisis and ensure food security for small producers as well as communities.
- Farmers should be encouraged to grow subsistence crops as well along with the cash crops and must be provided support in doing that, in order to ensure long term and sustainable food security.
- Diversification of food crops including vegetables should be encouraged through enabling and encouraging horticulture units at household, community and service delivery levels. Panchayats must allocate budgets for the same.
- In the long run, Central and State governments should include exclusive budgets for the eradication of hunger.

Annex 1 – Questionnaires

Questions to FPS Owner

(2 persons)

1. On account of lockdown what are food grains for distribution?

Sl. No.	Food grains	APL (Kg)	BPL (Kg)	Antyodaya (Kg)
1	Rice			
2	Dal			
3	Wheat			
4	Ragi			
5	Oil			
6	Others			

2. Is money taken for the distribution of the above food grains or free of cost?
1.Yes 2.No
3. Did all your cardholders receive food grains?
1.Yes 2. NO
4. How many months ration have you provided?
1.2.3.4.5
5. Has your ration shop received sufficient food grains for all cardholders?
1.Yes 2.NO
6. Did you stop giving ration to beneficiaries if not linked to Aadhar card or due to any technical reasons?
1.Yes 2. NO
7. Have you distributed rations to non-card holders under lockdown time?
1.Yes 2. NO
8. Have you distributed ration to migrant workers without ration cards?
1.Yes 2. NO
- If so, on what basis?
9. Are you facing any issues while procuring or distributing food grains
10. In this situation what are your suggestions to the govt?
11. Are you implementing Central Govt schemes?
1. Yes 2. No
12. If yes, what are those schemes?

Questions for Supervisor of AWCs

(1 or 2 Supervisors if necessary)

1. Have governments issued special orders/ letters/notifications during lockdown?

1.Yes 2. No

If so, list down the orders issued under schemes

2. What are the nutritious food grains and quantity given to children, PW&LM & adolescent girls?

Sl. No.	Grains	Quantity	Target groups

3. What kind of transport do you use to visit AWCs?

1. Personal 2. Government 3. Public
4. Has food grain reached on time to all the AWCs in your circle?
1.Yes 2.NO
5. Are you able to visit AWCs and supervise the distribution of food grains & other items to the beneficiaries as per rules? List out:
6. List down problems you face during lockdown?
7. What are your suggestions/ recommendations to the Government?

Questions to Anganwadi Workers

(2 AWW)

1. Are you aware of special provisions announced by the Govt due to Corona virus lockdown?
1. Yes 2. No
2. Are you going to houses of children below 3 years and 3 years to 6 years old children & PW & LM for distributing rations?
1. Yes 2. NO
3. How are you distributing rations to houses?
1. with the help of AWC helper 2. With the help of community 3. On your own 4. Others
4. While distributing do you maintain social distance?
1. Yes 2. No
5. While distributing rations do you ask people/ community to wear mask?
1. Yes 2. NO
6. How are you distributing rations to children below 3 years and Anganwadi children?
1. Yes 2. NO
7. Have you distributed eggs to children and PW & LM?
1. Yes 2. No
8. Did you give money in the place of eggs? If so, How much?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Amount
9. For how many days you have distributed food grains and eggs?
1. One week 2. 15 days 3. One month 4. Two months
10. How many days you took for the distribution of food grains?
11. During lockdown is MBS (PMMVY/ Mathrusree) in place?
1. Yes 2. NO
12. What are the problems you face during lockdown?
13. In the context of above matters would you like to give suggestions/ recommendations to the Government?

Questions for Students of MDMS

(2 Students)

1. Do you know that all dry rations to be delivered at home due to lockdown?
1. Yes 2. NO
2. Are food grains being distributed? How? How much?

Sl. No.	Food grains	Quantity

3. Is milk being distributed or milk powder packets distributed? How many?
1. Yes 2. NO 3. Quantity
4. For how many days the food grains have been distributed?

1. For a week 2. Fifteen days 3. One Month 4. Two Months
5. Are you going to school to collect food or is it delivered to your home?
1. They brought to home 2. We went & brought food grains
6. Are you maintaining social distance?
7. Do you wear mask?
8. What are your suggestions for the Government at this time?

Questions to Parent of child below 3 years

(2 Parents)

1. On account of Lockdown did AWW/ helper bring all the rations to your home?
1. Yes 2. No 3. We brought rations from AWC
2. How many days did your child receive rations?
1. 15 Days 2. One month 3. Two Months
3. Did you get eggs? For how many days? How many?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Days 4. Number of Eggs
4. Did you get money in the place of eggs? If so, how much?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Amount
5. How many packets of Pushti did your child get?
Indicate Number
6. Did your child get any medicines during lockdown?
1. Yes 2. NO
7. If your child receive any medical treatment or vaccination?
1. Yes 2. NO
8. Are you satisfied with quantity of rations supplied by AWC?
1. Yes 2. NO
9. If not, what is the quantity of rations you expect? How do you manage for other necessary items under lockdown?
10. In this situation what are your suggestions/recommendations to the Government?

Questions to parents of children between 3-6 years age

(2 Parents)

1. On the account of lockdown did your child/children receive all rations at your house by AWW/ helper?
2. Yes 2. No 3. We brought rations from AWC
2. When you went to AWC did you maintain social distancing?
1. Yes 2. NO
3. What are the food items given? What is the quantity? List out:

Sl. No.	Items	Quantity	How many days/ months
1	Milk powder		
2	Eggs		
3	Rice		
4			
5			
6			

4. Did your child receive any medicines meant for children?
1. Yes 2. NO
5. Did your child receive any medical treatment or vaccination?
1. Yes 2. No
6. Is this quantity of rations/ services from AWC satisfied you?
1. Yes 2. NO
7. If not, what is the quantity of rations you expect? How do you manage for other necessary items under lockdown?

8. Have you received free gas under Ujjwala scheme? Have you received money as announced by Central Government?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Received money
9. Have you received money to your Jan Dan Yojana bank account as announced by central govt, if so, what is the amount?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Amount
10. In this situation what are your suggestions/ recommendations to the Government?

Questions to PDS Beneficiaries

(2 Beneficiaries)

1. Which card do you have?
1. Antyodaya 2. PHH (BPL) 3. APL
2. Do you know about special provision of additional food grains announced by the Central & State Governments because of lockdown?
1. Yes 2.No
3. Is ration shop kept open all the days as announced in the context of lockdown (from morning to evening)?
1.Yes 2.NO
4. How many hours in a day the FPS kept open?
1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9
5. What are the food grains you received? How many Kgs? For how many months?

Sl. No.	Food item	APL (Kg)	BPL (Kg)	Antyodaya
1	Rice			
2	Dal			
3	Wheat			
4	Ragi			
5	Oil			
6	Others			

6. Did ration shop owner insist on your ration card for taking rations?
1.Yes 2. NO
7. Have your rations been refused if not linking to Aadhar card or for any technical reasons?
1.Yes 2. No
8. Was there a demand for payment to get rations? If so how much?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Money
9. Are you satisfied with the given food items?
1. Yes 2. NO
10. If not, how do you want government to act in such situation?
11. Have you received any money towards food rations in your bank account by the government?
1. Yes 2. NO
12. If yes, what is it?
13. In above matters would you like to give suggestions to the Government?

Returned Migrant Workers

(2 workers)

1. Where were you working?
2. What kind of job you were doing?
3. What was your earning per day?
4. How much you have saved so far?
5. Did your employer pay you salary/wages?
1. Yes 2.NO

6. Will you get the same job back?
1.Yes 2.NO
7. Are you asked to go to quarantine on your return in the village?
1.Yes 2.NO
8. What are the problems you face due to lockdown?
9. Did you get rations from FPS?
1.Yes 2.NO
10. Have you received any money from State or Central Government schemes?
1.Yes 2. NO
11. If so, under which scheme did you receive money?
12. What are your suggestion/ recommendations to the Government?

Questions- CDPO -1

1. Has the Government announced the special orders/ notifications/ notices during lockdown?
1. Yes 2. No
2. If yes, what are those related schemes?
3. What are the food grains that distributed to PW&LM?
4. Have food items sufficient for 3 months been distributed?
1.Yes 2.NO
5. If No, for how many months have you kept in stock?
6. Do you have transport facility for supervision? 1.Yes 2.NO
7. Are you supervising the supply of food grains to the AWCs only or in all matters?
1.Only in the supply of food grains 2. In all matters
8. Do you ensure the distribution of all items to the beneficiaries as per Government rules?
1.Yes 2.NO
9. What are the problems in your work during lockdown?
10. What are your suggestions for the government?

Questions for ASHA workers

(2 workers)

1. Are you able to visit homes in the village during Lockdown?
1.Yes 2.NO
2. Do you use social distance and mask?
1. Yes 2.NO
3. During this lockdown how are you managing in attending to deliveries, any medical emergency for PW & LM?
1. As per personal decision 2. With the support of Government
4. During this time have you attended to delivery case in the village?
1. Yes 2.NO
5. If Yes, List out the problems/ constraints faced?
6. Are you able to avail 108 ambulance service in case of medical emergency?
1. Yes 2.NO
7. Are you member of village & Gram Panchayat Taskforce?
1.Yes 2.NO
8. Do you get support from village taskforce members for your work?
1.Yes 2.NO
9. If so, List down what are the occasions?
10. Are you able to administer vaccination/ medicines for children/ PW & LM during this time?

1.yes 2.NO

11. Do you have problem in accessing to medicines?
1.Yes 2.No
12. Is delivery done in the hospital?
1.Yes 2.NO
13. Is more money to be spent on delivery?
1.Yes 2.NO
14. Did you face the situation where PW & LM need blood transfusion?
1.Yes 2.NO
15. What are your suggestions to the government at this time?

Questions to Daily wage labourer
(2 Labourers)

1. What kind of daily wage work you are doing?
2. How many days you are getting work during lockdown?
3. Where are you working?
1.in your village 2. Outside village 3. In another Taluk
4. What is your daily wages?
5. Do you get daily requirement of food grains in the work?
1.Yes 2.NO
6. Is MNREGA program going on now?
1.Yes 2.NO
7. Is your daily wage sufficient for managing your family?
1.Yes 2.NO
8. Did you avail ration from PDS this month?
1.Yes 2.NO
9. The quantity of your rations

Sl. No.	Ration	Quantity	For how many days

10. Did you get Rs500/ in Jan Dhan bank account? What problems are you facing during this time?
1.Yes 2.NO
11. Do you know that you will have to get Rs500/ month till June?
1.Yes 2.NO
12. What are the problems you face during lockdown?
13. What are your suggestions to the government at this time?

Panchayat Development Officer – 2

1. What are the orders/ notifications for essential services announced by the govt during the Lockdown?
2. Is there Village Taskforce committee formed?
1. Yes 2.No
3. If so how many members?
4. What are the functions of Taskforce committee?
5. Is there a system in place in case of any medical emergency in villages?
1.Yes 2.No
6. In your panchayat have you set up any system in case of COVID 19 emergency?

7. If yes, what is it?
8. Is NREGA scheme functioning now?
1.Yes 2.No
9. Are there any migrant workers from outside in the villages?
1. Yes 2.No
10. If yes, is there any support to them?
1.Yes 2.No
11. Is there any quarantine arrangement for the returned migrant workers?
1. yes 2. NO
12. Do you ensure that the beneficiaries receive money for free gas in their bank accounts under Ujjwala scheme?
1.Yes 2.No
13. Do you ensure that the beneficiaries in your panchayath receive money in their Jan Dan Yojana bank accounts?
1.Yes 2.No
14. Is your Panchayath organizing free food for the poor?
1.Yes 2. No
15. What are the awareness programs have you taken up in your Panchayath?
16. What are your problems in discharging your work during this time?
17. What are your suggestions for the Government?

Questions for Pregnant Women / Lactating Mothers

(2 PW&LM)

1. Due to Lockdown are you eating special hot cooked meals or did you get all food rations delivered to your house by Anganwadi worker or AWC Helper?
1.Yes 2.No 3. We went to AWC and had meals 4. Cooked meals were given to my house 5. got dry rations
2. What are the food items you received? What is quantity of each item
Make a List:

Sl. No.	Item	Quantity	For How many days/month
1	Milk Powder		
2	Egg		
3	Rice		
4			
5			

3. Did you get money in place of eggs? Is so how much?
Yes 2.No 3.Amount
4. Did you receive Iron and vitamin tablets?
1. Yes 2. No
5. Does ASHA visit you? How many times during this lockdown?
1.Yes 2. No 3. How many times
6. Did she use mask during visits?
1. Yes 2.No
7. Did she maintain physical distance during visits?
1.Yes 2.No
8. Have you received free gas under Ujjwala scheme? Have you received money as announced by Central Government?
1. Yes 2.NO 3.Received money
9. Have you received money to your Jan Dan Yojana bank account as announced by central government, if so, what is the amount?

- 1.Yes 2.No 3.Amount
10. Do you know that you will have to get Rs500/ month?
1. Yes 2. No
11. What are your suggestions for the Government?

Questions for Small Farmer

(2 Farmers)

1. What is the size of your land?
2. What are the crops you are growing now?
3. Are the crop/s ready for harvesting?
- 1.Yes 2.NO
4. Do you find shortage of labourers due to lockdown?
- 1.Yes 2.NO
5. How much you have invested on the crop?
6. Have you borrowed loans for farming from nationalised bank? How much?
1. Yes 2. No 3 How much
7. Have you borrowed loans for farming from private lenders? How much?
1. Yes 2.NO 3.How much
8. Is there an arrangement by the government to buy your crop?
1. Yes 2, NO
9. Is there Minimum Support Price fixed by the government? How much do you get?
1. Yes 2. NO 3. How much
10. Do you take your produce for market?
- 1.Yes 2. NO
11. Is there free transport arranged by the Government?
- 1.Yes 2. NO
12. What are the problems you face due to lockdown?
13. What are your suggestions to the Government?

Questions- Village Panchayath Presidents – 2

1. What are the orders/ notifications announced by the govt for essential services?
2. Is there Village Taskforce committee formed?
- 1.Yes 2. No
3. If yes, how many members?
4. What are the functions of Taskforce committee?
5. Is there a system in place in case of any medical emergency in the villages?
- 1.Yes 2. No
6. In your panchayath have you set up any system in case of COVID 19 emergency?
- 1.Yes 2.No
7. If Yes, what are they?
8. Is NREGA scheme functioning now?
- 1.Yes 2.No
9. Are there any migrant workers from outside in the villages?
- 1.Yes 2.No
10. If yes, is there any support to them?
- 1.Yes 2,No
11. Is there any quarantine arrangement for the returned migrant workers?
1. yes 2. NO
12. Do you ensure that the beneficiaries receive money for free gas in their bank accounts under Ujjwala scheme?
- 1.Yes 2.No

13. Do you ensure that the beneficiaries in your panchayath receive money in their Jan Dan Yojana bank accounts?
1.Yes 2.No
14. Is your Panchayath organizing free food for the poor?
1.Yes 2.NO
15. What are the awareness programs have you taken up in your Panchayath?
16. Do you face any problems in discharging your work during this time?
17. What are your suggestions for the Government?

Questions for MDMS Teacher

(2 Teachers)

1. Do you know that dry rations to be delivered at home of children as announce by the Government due to lockdown?
1.Yes 2 NO
2. Are you providing cooked meal or food grains to children?
1. Cooked 2. Food grains
3. Are the dry rations being supplied to the homes or Are students/ parents coming to school for collecting?
1. Supplied to homes 2. Distribution in school

Sl. No.	Food grains	Quantity	Days

4. How many days in a week you are distributing food grains? Write Number
5. Who are assisting you in the distribution?
2. Teachers 2. Students 3.SDMC Members 4. Panchayath members
6. Are you part of Village taskforce committee in the execution of lockdown?
1.Yes 2.NO
7. What are the problems you face during lockdown time?
8. What are your suggestions to the government in this situation?

Annex 2 – Demographic details

District	Taluk	No. of Village Panchayats	Total Population of 20 villages	Number of AWCs	Women	Children 0-14yrs	Adolescent girls
Bidar	Bidar	5	45644	39	19440	5262	289
Koppal	Koppal	5	35536	44	17603	5345	1087

Raichur	Raichur	4	29287	34	14577	7484	988
Ramanagara	Ramanagara	2	12260	20	6008	1061	786
Vijayapura	Basavan Bagewadi	11	69778	63	8907	9304	1455

Annex 3 – Statements of the respondents

1. **Vijayalaxmi Rotti**, a returned migrant worker from Hiresindogi, Koppal, said, “I was working in a small factory in Bangalore. When I heard about lockdown suddenly on that night, I did not understand initially, but my friends told me that factory is closed for a month, all buses and trains stopped, better go back home. I was so anxious and crying, wondering how to go back without any transport being a single woman. Next day somehow I managed to return along with my friend hiding in a goods van. All of us in my family were quarantined and got quarantine seal on our hands. Whenever we come out of home people look at our seals suspiciously as if we are corona virus positive patients. Govt says don’t bother, but we feel so bad, are we criminals? Above this, do you know what doctor who visited us once told us to do? When he came home the doctor asked us to tell any official if inquiries about his regular visits that the doctor visits us regularly for enquiring our health!”
2. **Heggappa Uppara**, a 38 years old marginal farmer with a family of four depends on his 3 acres land for livelihood. “I have cultivated sunflower by investing Rs 15000. Due to lockdown I struggled to sell and finally I got only Rs 10000. I foresee only difficult times”.
3. **Dayananda Vasthrad**, 36 years old owns 5 acres of land. He has a joint family of six members at home. He has two young children. Annually he earns around Rs 50000 depending on the crop yield and market but most of it goes for repayment of loans taken in a bank. “Vegetables, sajje, jowar etc., in my small land are ready for harvesting and for market, but as no transport at all I can’t take to market in Baghewadi or Vijayapura especially vegetables on daily basis. No proper rate for the grains as market is closed. I have taken loan for the cultivation from the bank; I don’t know how I am going to repay the loan. I went to market around 2 am in the night but I could not get minimum returns. I see farmers are throwing their produce on the roads. I have stopped plucking vegetables from the plants. Unless Government provides minimum support price, transport and some cash support we cannot survive at all even after lifting lockdown.”
4. **Akkamma Abbihala**, a 26 year old with 2 year old daughter and now 9 months pregnant lives in Hebbala village whose husband works in factory in Bangalore. “The quantity of food grains we are getting from Anganwadi, are so inadequate that what kind of nourishment we get from this? No transport is available to go to hospital. My neighbor, a pregnant woman needed ambulance urgently for delivery but no help came. Govt should provide ambulance in case of medical emergencies.”
5. **Hanamantha Bajantri**, 42 years old is a daily wage worker earning around Rupees 300 in a day. He has one son and a daughter, who are studying in a high school in Golasangi. “During this lockdown time also ration shop owner insists on OTP for giving rations. I could not recharge my mobile to get OTP. First of all I don’t have any money for spending and also no shops open. In addition to our problems ration shop collects Rs10 for one card. The rations are not at all sufficient for our family. How are we going to eat with only rice and wheat?”
6. **Mallappa Kakandaki**, a 37 year old daily wage worker lives in Talewad village. He has 2 daughters aged 13 and 9 and a son aged 14. He migrates along with wife and daughters to Sangli in Maharashtra for six months to work as contract labour in a brick factory. He and his wife together earn about Rs 600 per day. “Although I was home quarantined in the village after coming back from Sangli, the villagers did not want to allow me and others to go home because ‘we have come from other states so we have brought the disease’. With so much difficulty the health workers persuaded the village people to allow

us inside. All my savings I have spent, I don't have any more to feed my family. We should be given some money at least for four or five months to breathe"

7. **Mahadevi Kolakar**, a 43 year old has three sons who have migrated to different districts. She lives in Kalagurki village and takes care of two grandchildren. She and her husband grow Jowar, and pulses on 3 acres of land but mainly depends on the income from selling milk and curds. "For many days I did not get rations from the Anganwadi, then we were asked to go to the Anganwadi for collecting the rations-rice, sooji, dal, sugar which are so inadequate for 15 days. They have not given us all other food items like oil, jiggery, groundnuts, masala, eggs.... No vaccinations or tablets to the children in these difficult times."
8. **Bharathi Meti**, a 40 year old agricultural labourer earns around Rs200 a day whenever she gets work. She has two sons studying in high school and her husband is a construction labourer in Bhagewadi Taluk. "I got message that Rs 500 is deposited in my bank account. What is the point of govt depositing Rs 500 when I cannot withdraw the cash for my family needs? There is no bus to go to the bank, 12 kms away in Baghewadi. Rs500 is too little for a month to manage most of my household basic needs."
9. **Ramappa Halemane** a daily wage worker from Mudlapur, Koppal district has to take care of his wife, four children and aged mother. He shared, "When I went to ration shop this month to get my ration shop owner refused to give me ration although I have BPL card. He insisted that only after showing OTP on mobile I can take rations. But I don't have mobile. I went twice but refused. Then only after using my neighbour's mobile he gave me rations."

2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ರೇಷನ್

ಸಂಕ. ಸಮಾಚಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡಿತರ ಚೀಟಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ
ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪಡಿತರ ಚೀಟಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ
ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗಿ 2.50 ಲಕ್ಷ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ
ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳ ಪಡಿತರ ನೀಡಲು
ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರಣೆ ನೀಡಿದ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಚಿವ ಮಾಧುಸ್ಥಾನಿ
ಅವರು, ಕೊರೋನಾಡಿಂದಾಗಿ
ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಪಡಿತರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಿಗೂ
ಅಗಾಧತೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ
ಪಡಿತರ ಚೀಟಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ 2
ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನರು ತೀರ ಅಂತರರೈಲ್ವಾರ್ಡ್
ಅವರಿಗೂ ಕೂಡ ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆ

■ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

■ ನಾಲ್ಕೈದು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆ

ಮಾಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ
ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಡಿತರಗಳನ್ನು
ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕು
ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಪಡಿತರ

ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ
ಯಾರೂ ಹಸಿವಿನಿಂದ ಇರಲಾರದು
ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಸತ್ಕಲ್ಪದಂತೆ
ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆಗೆ ಮು
ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅವರು
ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಪಡಿತರ ವಿತರಣೆ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ
ಈ ವರೆಗೂ ಯಾವ ದೂರುಗಳು
ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂಬುದು ಮುಂದಾದವರು
ಪಡಿತರ ಅಂಗಡಿಯವರು ತಕರಾರು
ಮಾಡುವ ದೂರುಗಳು ಕೇಳಿಬಂದರೆ
ಅಂಥವರ ಅಂಗಡಿಗೆಲ್ಲ ರೈಷನ್
ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ
ಅತಿರೇಕದ ಮೇಲೆ ಶಿಸ್ತುಕ್ರಮ
ಈಗಿನಂತೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು
ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಸಿದರು.