



Voices from the Margins and Inclusive Policy Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

Key Findings

Theme 1: Knowledge, Awareness, and Practice about COVID-19

1st Round Panel Survey

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Key Findings

- 71% people from marginalised communities consider COVID-19 as a deadly disease and almost half of the population perceives it as an infectious disease. Perceptions of Corona as a God's wrath was found among 20.6% of the marginalised community while the same is lowest among the ethnic and religious minority (9.4%). (Table 1.1)
- Overall, marginalised groups reported a good level of knowledge about the symptoms of Corona with 96% reporting knowledge about the most common symptoms – fever, pneumonia, dry cough. Knowledge about other symptoms like shortness of breath (53%) and head or body ache (48%) were also moderately good. About 3% reported of not knowing about any of the symptoms. (Table 1.2)
- More than 85% and 87% of the marginalised population are aware of the two primary prevention measures which are 'frequently washing/ sanitizing/ sterilizing hands' and 'wearing a mask when going out' respectively. Whereas just nearly half (47.7%) of the population knows about the right way to use a mask. Reportedly, rural households lead in most aspects of this awareness. The other prevention measures, except 'keeping distance of at least 1 meter from others' (19.9%) are known by around one-third of the population. (Table 1.3)
- On the practice front of health protocol during COVID 19, about 28% did not follow because of their inability to buy protective gears/materials due to poverty while 24% believe that God would keep them safe. There was 21.6% marginalised household who were not interested to follow the protocol. (Table 1.4)
- A huge majority of the household (91.7%) reported of not having any symptoms of Corona/ COVID-19. Among the COVID-19 affected households, the Corona/COVID-19 testing rate was very poor in the marginalised communities (11.7%) while none from the ethnic and religious communities reported going for testing. (Tables 1.5, and 1.6)
- On the issue of treatment at hospital for COVID 19, overall 11% household from these marginalised communities took Corona treatment. The proportion is lowest amongst the ethnic and religious communities (3%) given the low prevalence of COVID-19. (Table 1.7)
- Most of the marginalised people didn't receive any institutional treatment because they followed home based treatment and remedies. Only 5% said they couldn't afford the cost of treatment. (Table 1.8)

Table 1.1: Perception about COVID-19 disease (Multiple answers) (%)

Indicators	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Deadly disease	76.6	69.1	68.8	73.4	71.1	71.4
Infectious disease causing death	52.6	50.5	42.8	50.5	45.5	48.6
Seasonal disease	2.6	2.3	0.8	13.6	1.9	1.9
Does not affect poor people	8.7	22.2	23.9	16.3	21.3	18.5
Rumor	2.0	3.2	9.8	4.4	6.2	5.0
Urban disease	6.3	4.1	1.4	4.9	1.9	3.9
God's wrath	9.4	25.6	26.3	25.5	20.4	20.6
Others	1.8	0.2	2.4	8.7	2.8	1.4
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

Table 1.2: Knowledge about the symptoms of COVID-19 disease (Multiple answers) (%)

Symptoms	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Fever, pneumonia, dry cough	94.3	98.1	96.5	95.7	92.9	96.4
Diarrhea	14.0	21.9	15.5	16.3	13.3	17.2
Chest pain	10.2	22.2	20.4	20.7	13.3	17.7
Weakness	10.2	16.0	15.7	15.2	14.7	14.0
Head or body ache	38.2	56.7	47.3	50.0	46.5	47.6
Not getting taste and smell of food	13.4	16.6	13.1	10.9	11.4	14.4
Shortness of breath	50.8	59.9	46.9	55.4	47.9	52.6
Nausea	4.3	2.1	10.0	6.5	3.3	5.4
Don't know	94.3	98.1	96.5	95.7	92.9	96.4
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

Table 1.3: Awareness about prevention measures of COVID-19 pandemic (Multiple answers) (%)

Type of steps	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Frequently washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds duration/ Using Hand Sanitizer/ Rubbing hands with alcohol content sterilizer	83.1	92.3	80.6	81.5	76.8	85.5
Keep distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from others	34.6	47.1	31.6	35.9	33.2	37.9
Keeping hands away from touching nose, eyes, and ears	16.7	18.6	24.3	24.5	17.5	19.9
Using mask to cover mouth and nose	35.6	52.5	54.3	51.1	47.9	47.7
Wearing a mask when going out of home	85.6	92.1	84.3	87.5	85.3	87.4
Keeping away from crowd	39.2	47.7	28.8	35.3	32.7	38.7
Don't know	2.9	1.9	3.1	3.3	4.3	2.6
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

Table 1.4: Reasons behind not following primary health directives (Multiple answers) (%)

Reasons	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Not interested	23.9	19.5	21.4	20.7	15.7	21.6
It is not highly infectious	7.0	11.3	9.1	10.3	6.2	9.2
Cannot buy materials because of poverty	27.0	29.2	27.2	32.9	28.1	27.8
God will keep me safe	8.9	36.7	27.7	23.2	23.6	24.6
Others	0.5	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.8
n	426	442	430	155	178	1298

Table 1.5: History of COVID-19 symptoms in the household (%)

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
History of COVID-19 symptoms in family	6.9	7.0	11.2	8.2	10.9	8.3
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

Note: Estimation shown in table below 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 is done for only those household who reported of having COVID-19 symptoms presented in table 1.5.

Table 1.6: History of COVID-19 testing in the family (%)

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
History of COVID-19 testing in family (Yes)	0.0	10.8	19.3	6.7	13.0	11.7
n	34	37	57	15	23	128

Table 1.7: COVID-19 treatment history in hospital by household members (%)

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
COVID-19 treatment by HH member (Yes)	2.9	16.2	12.3	6.7	13.0	10.9
n	34	37	57	15	23	128

Table 1.8: Reasons for not receiving COVID-19 treatment/services (%)

Reasons	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Couldn't afford the cost	3.0	3.2	8.0	7.1	10.0	5.3
Doctors were unavailable	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Followed home remedies	90.9	93.5	88.0	85.7	90.0	90.4
Others	9.1	9.7	32.0	7.1	15.0	19.3
n	33	31	50	14	20	114