

SPECIAL SURVEY FOR EVALUATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WELLBEING OF PEOPLE



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PREFACE

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) a pandemic. A global coordinated effort is required to stop the further spread of the virus. As this virus is demolishing the economies all over the world and Pakistan is also trying to cope up with this global challenge, and it seems that economy of country will be severely disturbed and its growth may experience severe dip due to closure of business and economic activities. According to HIICS 2015-16, 25 percent of Pakistan population is living under poverty line and the negative shock of pandemic can push a huge no of household below the poverty line. It is worth mentioning here that, major Part of Pakistan's Labour force is employed in the informal sector, therefore it is implied that due to this fact population of Pakistan will be gravely affected by the closure of business/economic activates and unemployment and poverty is likely to increase manifold if this situation continues for unlimited time.

Keeping in view above mentioned facts ,PBS being the National Statistical Organization has designed the Special Survey with objective for evaluating Socio economic Impact of COVID-19 on wellbeing of People for provision of evidence for informed decision making to Policy Makers / Planners. This survey provides representative results at National/ Provincial level to inform government on the magnitude/level of effects of this crises on employment, food security and general wellbeing of the population.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/RM), and the whole PBS team for the successful completion of the task. The report is also available on the website of PBS. Comments and suggestions are welcome to further improve the survey and this report in future.

(Mathar Niaz Rana)
Secretary/Chief Statistician

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics,
Islamabad
December,2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

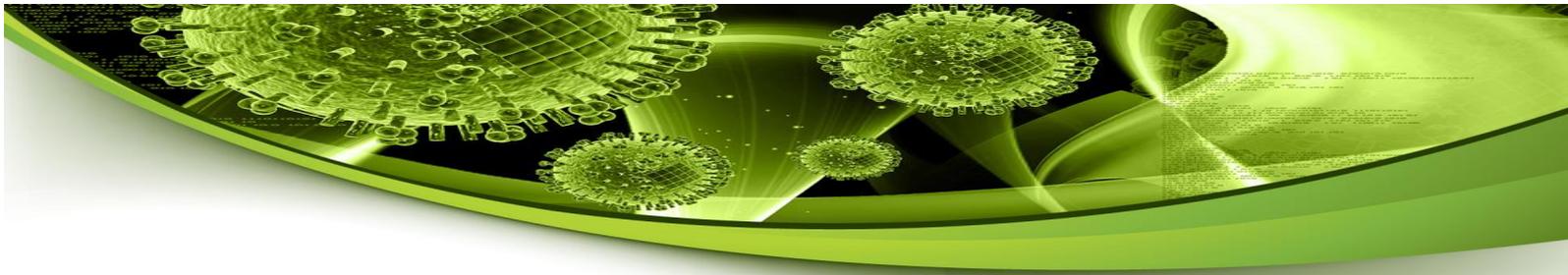
This report provides information about the Socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in terms of Employment/ job lost, Impact on Income, Food Security, Coping Strategies adopted and Assistance received for tackling the shock collected through especially designed survey by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics(PBS) to provide evidence for informed decision making. Data was collected electronically through tablets from 500 Primary sampling units (PSUs) with 70 percent urban and 30 percent rural share. The period of field enumeration of this survey was from 20th October 2020 to 5th November 2020. Results are prepared within one month of data collection.

PBS is extremely grateful to Deputy Chairman Planning Commission for Inauguration of field activities of the Survey and his valuable feedback and guidance for improvement. PBS owes special gratitude to Dr. G. M Arif , Independent researcher & Member Governing Council of PBS and Dr. Aliya. H. Khan , Independent researcher Economist and Ex head of Department of Economics, QAU for their continuous support and guidance for finalization of questionnaires and results. I would like to thank Ms.Rabia Awan Director (PSLM/Sample Design) for her leadership and dedication for completing the task successfully. The completion of the report would have not been possible without enormous hard work and devotion of PSLM team, Data Processing Centre, Field teams and Sample Design Section of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics The completion of the survey activity and preparation of the report in a limited time has further added pride to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Considering the requirements of the policy makers, planners, researchers and other data users, efforts have been made to improve the report in a way that it can meet the expectations. Report is also placed at PBS website www.pbs.gov.pk It is hoped that the data users will find this report useful and timely. Any further comments and suggestions for future improvement will be highly appreciated.

(Muhammad Sarwar Gondal)
Member (SS/RM)

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December,2020



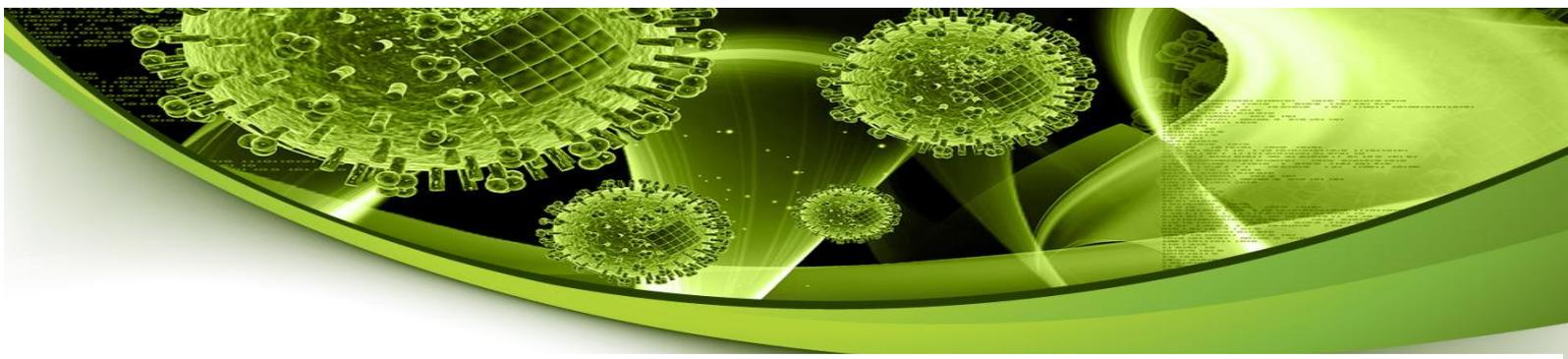
Some Glimpses of Virtual Training of Covid-19 Survey



LIST OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN COVID-19 SURVEY

The report is produced by the efforts of the following officers of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics listed under the specific tasks:

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▪ Mr. Tajmmul Hussain	Supervisor



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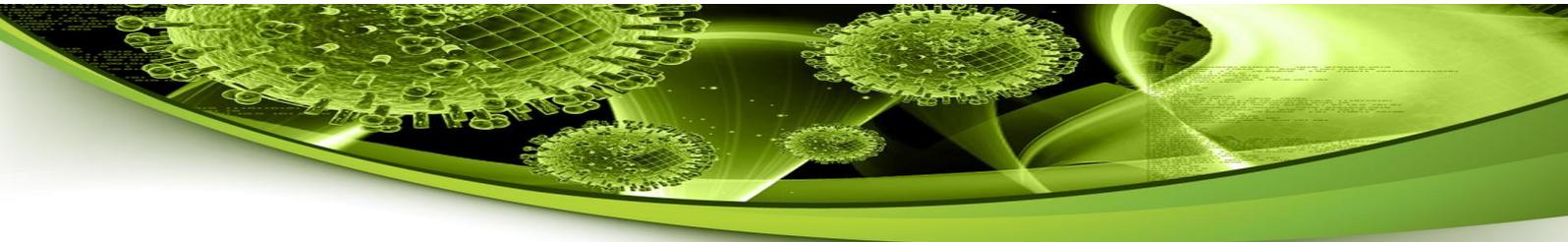
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INTRODUCTION

World is currently under the challenge to cope with the Pandemic COVID-19 and implementation of country wide lock downs have affected the lives of the people and economies of many countries of the world. Pakistan is also currently trying to cope up with this global challenge, however it was feared that economy of country will be shaken and its growth may severely be affected due to **closure of business and economic activities, decrease in Imports/ Exports, Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) and remittances which resultantly also increase unemployment & Poverty.**

To access the Socio economic impact of COVID-19 and its future implications, governments do not have any updated and representative nationwide data. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics being the key government agency responsible for providing official statistics for Pakistan, has taken initiative to conduct special survey to evaluate Socio-Economic impact of COVID-19 on wellbeing of people for provision of representative results at National/ Provincial level to inform government on the magnitude/level of effects of this crises on employment, food security and general wellbeing of the population for decision making.

For development/finalization of questionnaire and methodology, various consultative meetings were held with relevant stake holders like FAO, World Bank, UNDP, WHO and M/O Planning Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI). The List of worthy members who reviewed questionnaire and methodology are at Annexure 1. After approval by Secretary PD & SI, it is sent to Data processing Center for designing of Database applications accordingly.

Information on the following sectors have been collected to study the socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Wellbeing:

- Employment and Income
- Income from Second Occupation, Domestic & Foreign Remittances, Rent and Other work
- Job Loss /Migration due to COVID-19
- Assistance from Social Protection Programs
- Food Insecurity
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Coping Strategies to tackle the Shock
- Selected Durable Items Owned By the household
- Practices during COVID-19 to mitigate the effects of COVID-19
- Access/Usage of Health Services during COVID-19

Sampling Frame

Latest 2017-Population & Housing Census frame used for designing the sample for this survey. The frame information is given below:

Province	No. of PSUs		
	Rural	Urban	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	22,538	3267	25,805
Punjab	59,841	27,162	87,003
Sindh	17,239	21,892	39,131
Balochistan	8383	1839	10,222
Islamabad	789	726	1515
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	3496	526	4022
Gilgit-Baltistan	1098	148	1246
Total	113,384	55,560	168,944

Sample Size Estimation & Allocation

Two indicators namely average household consumption and food insecurity based on results of Household Integrated Economic Survey 2018-19 were used to compute sample size of the survey. Finally, sample size of 500 sample PSUs has been estimated using average households consumption variable. Estimated sample is representative with the precision of 3% at National level and 4% at rural and urban level. As it is presumed that urban part of the country is severely affected by the lockdown to curtail the spread of pandemic, therefore, more sample size is allocated to urban areas and big cities to get clear picture. Therefore 70 percent sample comprising of 349 PSUs and 30 percent sample i.e. 151 PSUs were allocated to urban & rural areas respectively. Moreover, urban part was further divided into Self Representative Cities (SRC) and other urban for better accuracy of the survey results, keeping in view the objectives of the survey. Proportional allocation has been adopted for sample size allocation.

The detail of sample is as below:

Sample Size			
Province	Rural	Urban	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	20	47	67
Punjab including Islamabad	54	125	179
Sindh	46	107	153
Balochistan	19	42	61
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	7	17	24
Gilgit Baltistan	5	11	16
	151	349	500

Sample Design

Two stage stratified random sample design has adopted for the survey. At first stage, sample PSUs have been selected using systematic random sampling with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) method. No of households inside each PSU as per sampling frame has considered as measure of size (MOS). At second stage, 12 households have been selected using systematic random sampling technique with equal probability in urban and rural areas.

Sampling Weights

Two stage sampling weights have been developed for the survey. First stage sampling weights are the reciprocal of probability of selection of sample PSU at the first stage as explain below:

First stage probability of selection of sample PSU= p_1

$$p_1 = n_h * N_{hi} / \sum N_{hi}$$

where, n_h = number of sample PSUs selected in h^{th} stratum

N_{hi} = MOS in selected i^{th} PSU of h^{th} stratum

$\sum N_h$ = Sum of all houses in h^{th} stratum

First stage sampling weights= $w_1=1/p_1$

For rural areas, stratum total is no. of households at the district level for Punjab, Sindh and KP provinces and for Balochistan, AJ&K and GB at division level. For urban areas, stratum total is no. of households at the division level for all provinces including AJ&K and GB. Later, for SRC and Other Urban respective Stratum totals has been used be used for calculation of first stage weights. For second stage sampling weights field coverage information of listed household and covered household have been utilized

Second stage weights= $w_2=M_{hi}/ m_{hi}$

Where, M_{hi} =no of listed household

m_{hi} =no. of covered household

Two Stage sampling weights= $w_i=w_1*w_2$

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year.

Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Therefore to capture the impact of this phenomenon, the specially designed employment module of this survey collects information regarding working population, income from work, their industry & occupation status and other sources of household income, before Covid-19 (January-March 2020), during Covid-19 first wave (April –July 2020) and after Covid-19

In Pakistan **35 percent** Population 10 years & older i.e. approximately **55.74 million** was working before onset of COVID-19. However, due to closure of activities after implementation of lock down, It is observed that this decline to **22 percent** (**35.04 Million Population** approx). Most Affected province was Sindh for which the working population has been reduced to **23 percent** during Covid Period (April-July) as compared to **38 percent** before the shock followed by Punjab with **14 percentage points** decline and Balochistan with **11 percentage points**. However, it is heartening to find that after July the recovery process started and **33 percent** of population reported working i.e. approximately **52.56 million**, almost a V shape recovery.

Figure 1: Situation Analysis of impact of covid-19 on Working Population 10 years and Older (%)

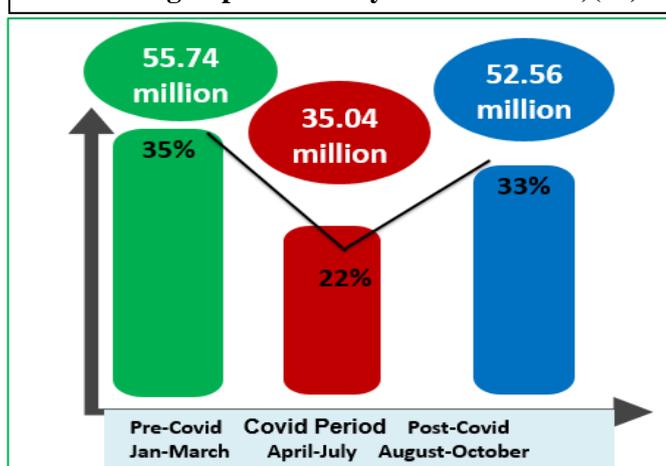


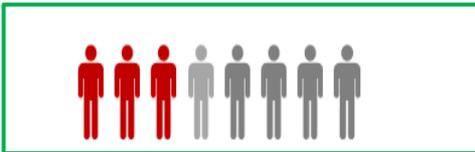
Table 1: Situation Analysis of Impact of Covid-19 on Working Population 10 years and Older

	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Before	During	After	Before	During	After	Before	During	After
Pakistan	35	22	33	34	18	33	36	25	33
Punjab	36	22	34	34	18	32	37	25	36
Sindh	38	23	33	37	18	35	40	28	31
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	29	21	28	30	17	29	29	22	28
Balochistan	33	24	35	31	21	34	34	25	36

Figure 2: Percentage of Working Population Faced Job Loss/ Decrease in Income During Covid-19-%



Approximately **27.31 million** population either lost job/could not work or suffered by decrease in their income

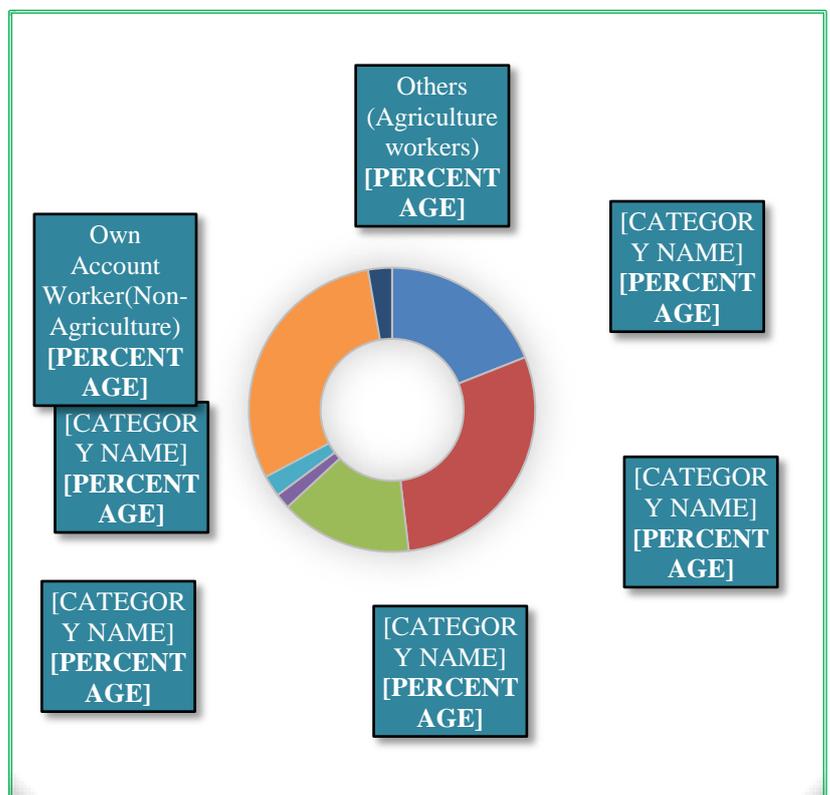


37 percent of working population i.e. **20.63 million** lost their jobs/ could not work due to COVID-19 Lockdown(Table 2). **12 percent** i.e. **6.7 million** experience reduction in Income

Table 2: Incidence of Working Population Faced Job Loss/ Decrease in Income During Covid-19-%

	Affected	Job Loss/ Could not work	Decrease in Income
Pakistan	49	37	12
Punjab	48	37	10
Sindh	51	39	11
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	55	29	26
Balochistan	46	39	8

Figure 3: Distribution of Working Population faced Job Loss/could not work during Covid-19 by status



It is found that **almost half of the working population** was badly affected due to closure of business and lockdown owing to COVID-19. It is worth mentioning that the daily wagers (usually construction workers), casual workers and the people who were own account workers in non agriculture sectors like shop keepers, street vendors, taxi drivers were the most affected portion.(Figure 3)

This implies that majority affected i.e. **74 percent** relates to informal sector and proved to most vulnerable to these kind of shocks. This evidence suggests that there is strong need for devising mechanism for inclusion of these workers in social protection programs.

Distribution of Affected Workers by Industry

It is found that four most affected industries in terms of job lost are Manufacturing, Construction, Transport & Storage and Wholesale & Retail Trade. (Figure 4). However, when we analyze the situation of workers inside the industries, it is found that (Table 3) workers of construction sector was hit worst by the shock as almost **80 percent** of workers either lost their jobs or faced decrease in income, followed by workers of Manufacturing sector where **72 percent** workers faced either job lost or decrease in income. These results depicts that **46 percent** of total shock in economy is due to closure of manufacturing and construction sector and opening of these sectors immediately after Covid period (April- July), first wave provided the relief to economy.

Figure 4: Distribution of affected workers (Job lost) by Industry (%)

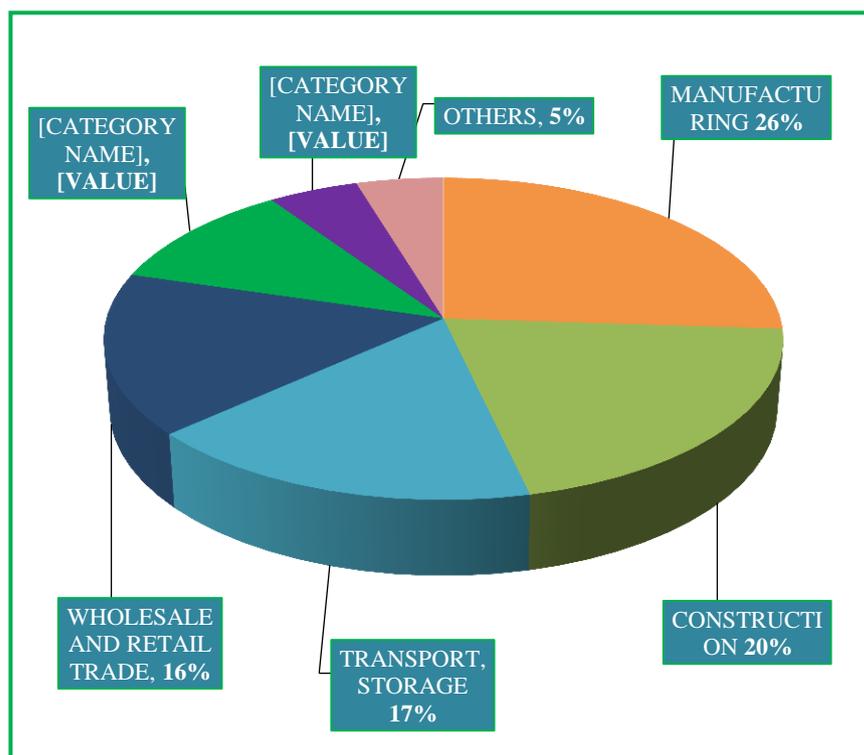


Table 3: Incidence of Working Population Faced Job Loss/ Decrease in Income by Industry (%)

	Affected	Job Loss	Decrease In Income
Construction	80	59	21
Manufacturing	72	58	14
Transport, Storage	67	55	12
Wholesale and Retail Trade	63	44	19
Mining and Quarrying	38	31	7
Community, Social and Personal Services	36	27	9
Agriculture, Forestry Hunting and Fishing	14	7	7
Others	33	25	7

Distribution of Affected Workers by Occupation

Analyzing the distribution of affected working population by Occupation, it is revealed that works in Elementary Occupations (labour in Agriculture, Mining, Hotel & Restaurant, hawkers, vendors etc) were badly shaken with **36 percent** work force lost their jobs/couldnot work during Covid period, (Figure 5), followed by Service Workers/Sales Workers with **26 percent**. Craft and Related Trade Worker is the third most affected occupation group in which **18 percent** working population faced Job loss.

Incidence of Affected Working Population Faced Job Loss/Decrease in Income by Occupation

Observing the incidence of affected workers by Occupation,(Figure 6) it is evident that **72 percent** workers in Craft/Related & Plant & Machine Operators/Assemblers were severely affected and **57 percent & 52 percent** of both occupations lost their jobs during Covid-19 period (firt wave) respectively.The other higher incidence of affected workers are in service workers/shopa sales workers and Elemnetary occupations where **45 percent and 42 percent** lost their jobs. Could not work respectively during the shock period. Least affected occupation was related to agriculture with only **9 percent**.

Figure 5: Distribution of affected workers (Job lost) by Occupation (%)

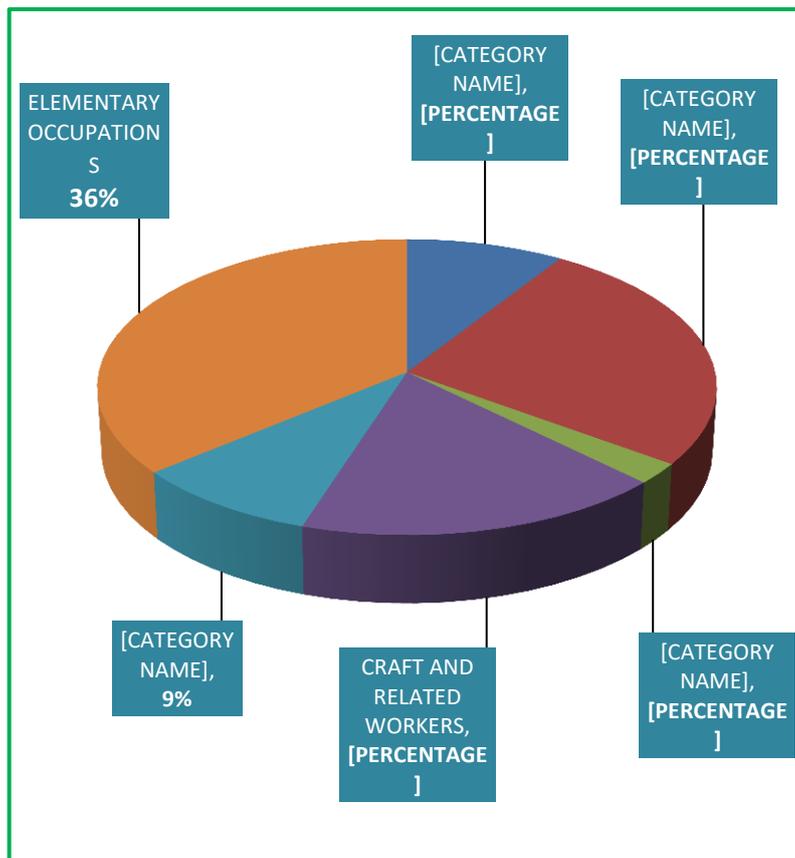
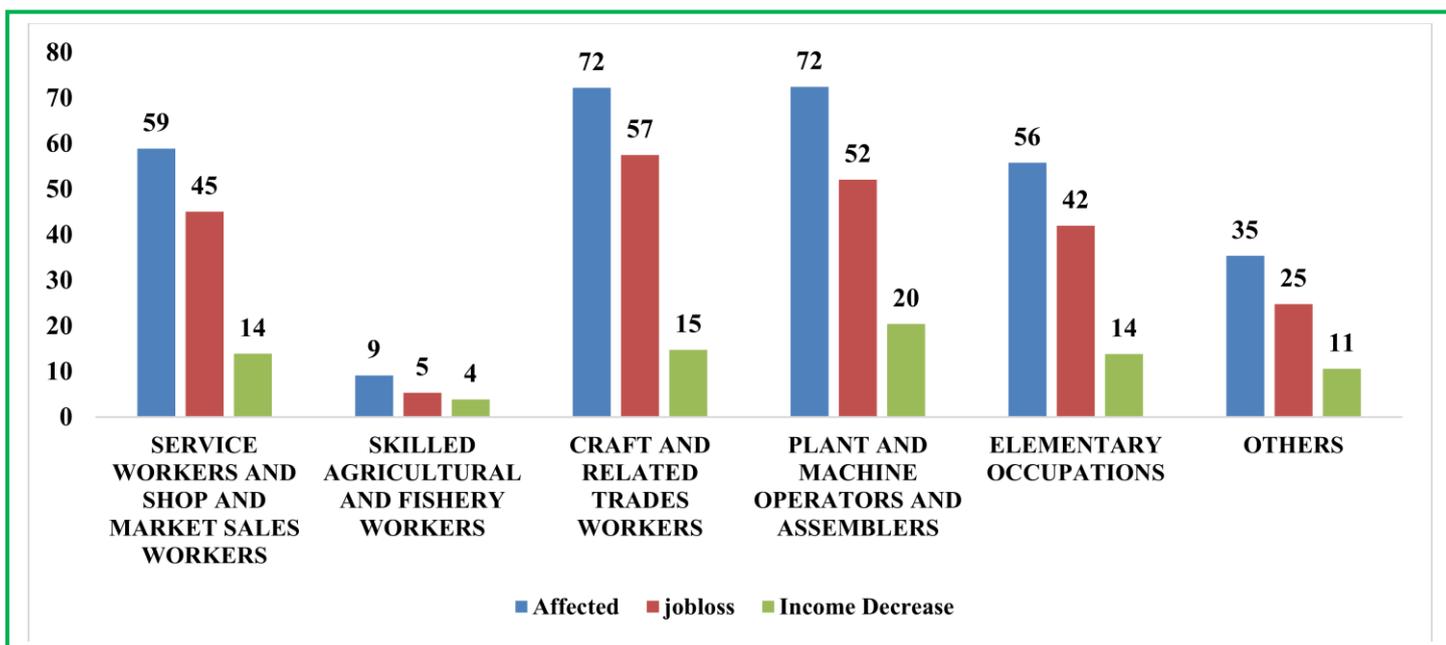
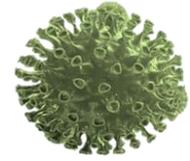


Figure 6:- Incidence of Working Population Faced Job Loss/ Decrease in Income by Occupation-%

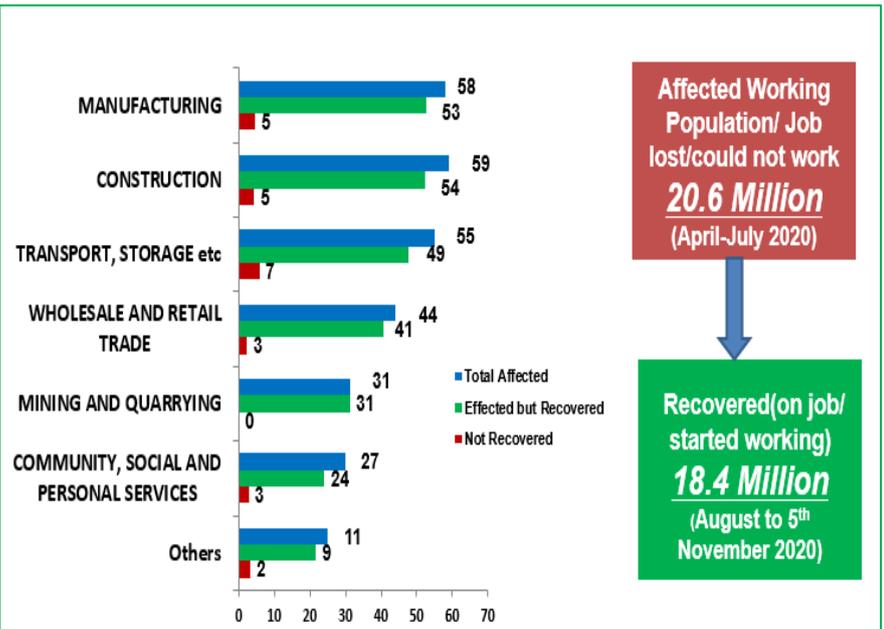




Proportion of Population Recovered from Shock-by Industry

Data driven evidence shows that economy started to recover as government eased down lockdown restrictions and open the sectors in phases as depicted from Figure 7. It is evident that all industries shown recovery and Mining & Quarrying, wholesale retail trade, Manufacturing and Construction all shown recovery.

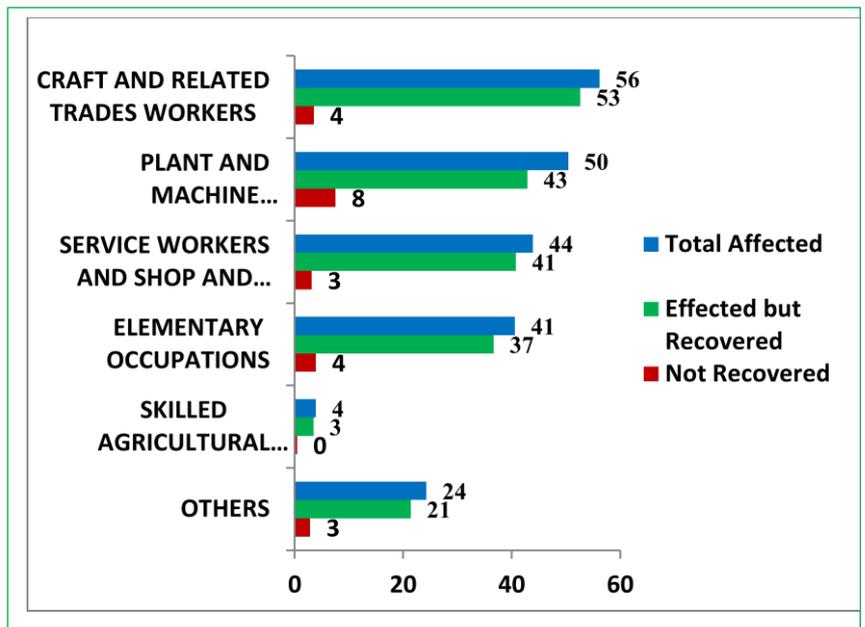
Figure 7: Incidence of Population Recovered from Shock-by Industry (%)



Proportion of Population Recovered from Shock-by Occupation

This survey also collected information regarding Effected Occupation (August –October 2020) which depicts encouraging picture of recovery from shock of Covid-19. Figure 8 shows that Most affected occupation group was Craft and related trade works showed rapid recovery as 56 percent population related to the occupation of Craft has been recovered from shock followed by 43 percent of Plant and Machine Operators.

Figure 8: : Incidence of Population Recovered from Shock-by Occupation(%)



Financial Implications Faced by Households during COVID-19

Households have different sources of income, some only rely on domestic or foreign remittances, some have income from Jobs/ Businesses and also income from property including rent of houses etc, while some specifically rely on gift & Assistance. It is found from data that due to closure of business activities during lockdown from April- July 2020, have strong implications on financial status of households. Almost **53 percent** households all over Pakistan reported with reduced income either earned or unearned. (Table 4)

Households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported **64 percent** Income reduction, percentage is higher in Urban areas as compared to rural areas with **67 percent** and **63 percent** respectively. This may be because of the fact that one of the main sources of income in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are domestic or foreign remittances which declined due to closure of work. Households in Sindh are the second most affected with **59 percent** followed by Balochistan with **51 percent** and Punjab with **49 percent**. (Figure 9).



Rural: 49%



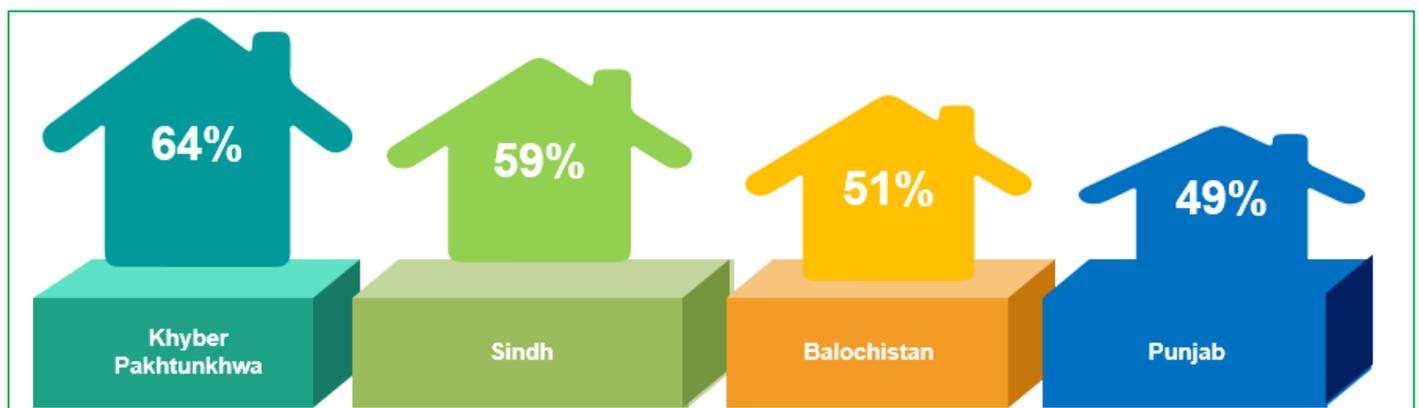
Urban: 57%

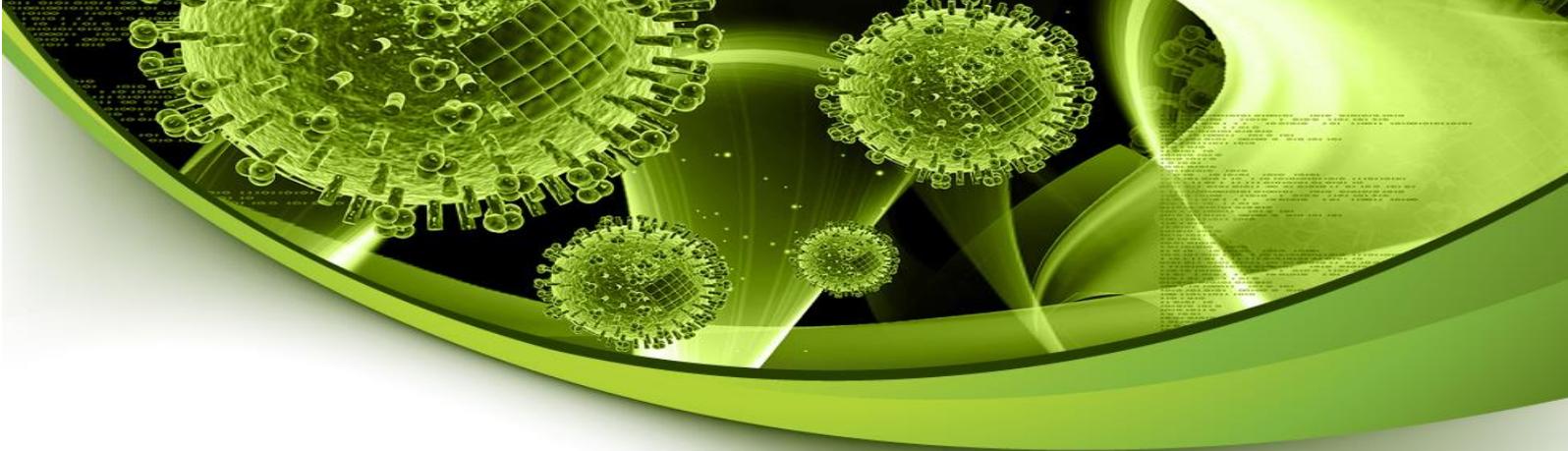
53% households in overall Pakistan faced financial implications due to closure of business owing to COVID-19 Lockdowns

Table 4: Percentage of Household Reported Reduced Income (Earned Or Un Earned) by Region

	Urban	Rural	Total
Pakistan	57	49	53
Punjab	53	44	49
Sindh	64	51	59
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	67	63	64
Balochistan	51	51	51

Figure 9: Percentage of Household Reported Reduced Income (Earned Or Un Earned) by Province

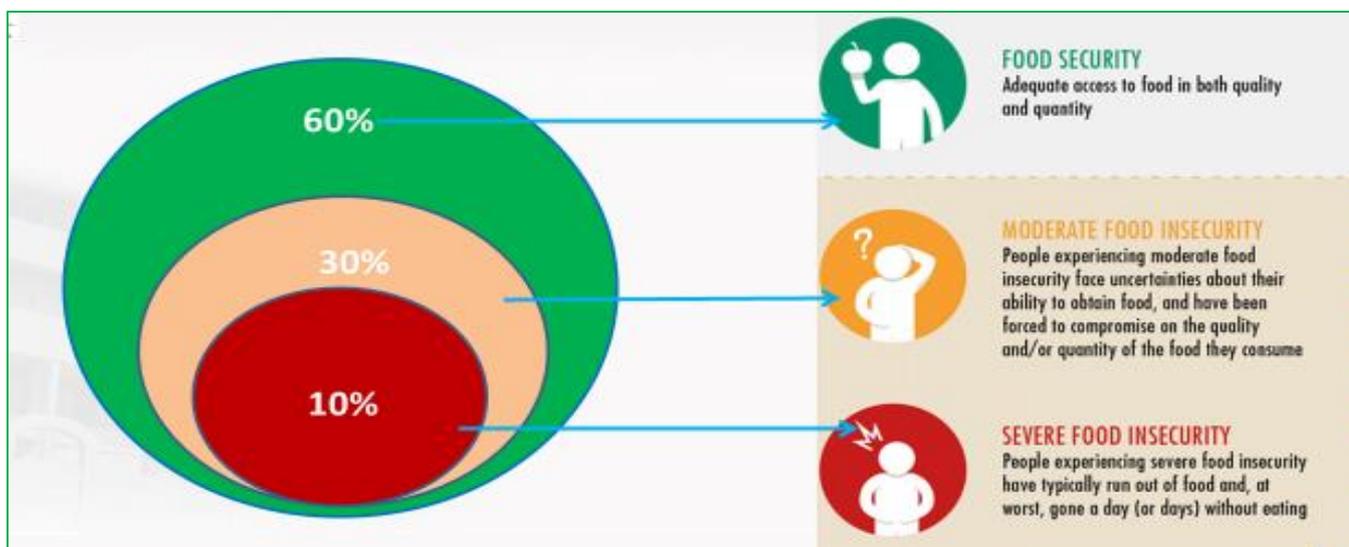




FOOD INSECURITY

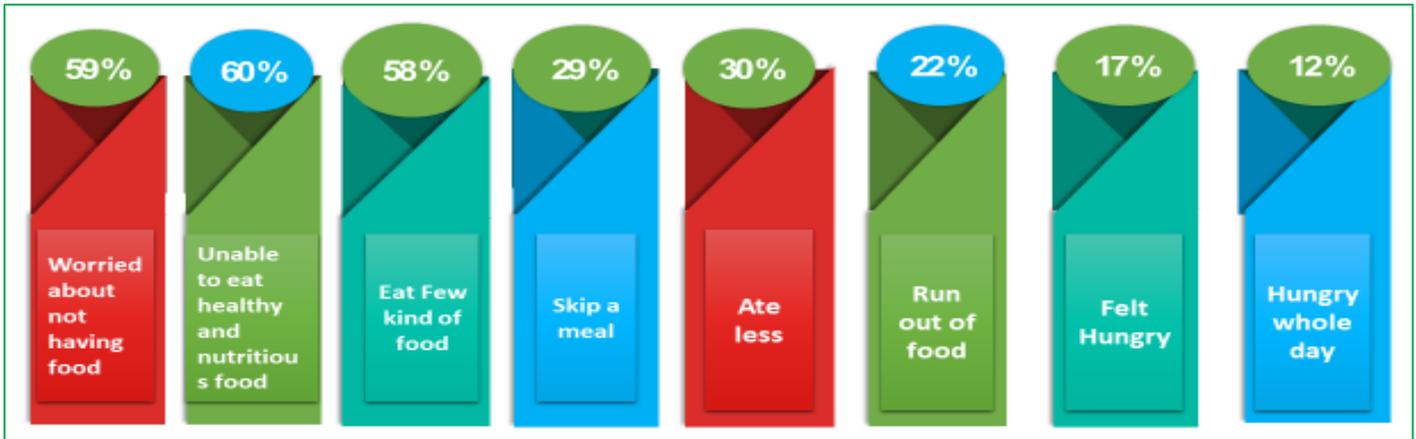
Although Pakistan is food surplus country and a major producer of Wheat but still Food insecurity is a big issue in Pakistan. Women and children in Pakistan are mostly affected by Malnutrition and only 15 percent of children are consuming minimally accepted diet. According to the definition of FAO *“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”*¹ (Walter Fraanje, Samuel Lee-Gammage, 2018).

In this special survey, standard module used globally for measuring Food Insecurity developed by Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) was included to estimate the food insecurity (for covid period, April to July 2020). Results reveals that **Severe food Insecurity** in the country has been increased to **10 percent** during Covid Period as compared to approximately 3 percent reported in HIES 2018-19. While **30 percent** of the households reported **Moderate Food Insecurity** as compared to 13 percent reported in HIES 2018-19. However its worth mentioning that **60 percent** of the households remained food secure during the covid



period. Eight questions regarding Fear, Quality, Quantity of food consumed during covid period has been asked from each household and snapshot of their responses are as below.

Experience of Household Regarding Food Insecurity during COVID Period (April-July)(%)



Severe Food insecurity is higher in urban areas with 13 percent as compared to rural areas with 8 percent.. Moderate Food Insecurity is also higher in urban areas with **33 percent** than in rural areas with 30 percent.

Provincial comparison depicts that highest percentage of households in Sindh with **52 percent** faced **moderate & severe food insecurity** followed by Punjab & Balochistan with **39 percent**.(Figure 10). However, households in Balochistan Province faced highest Severe Food in security with **13 percent** while households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province faced lowest severe food insecurity with **5 percent**. only .

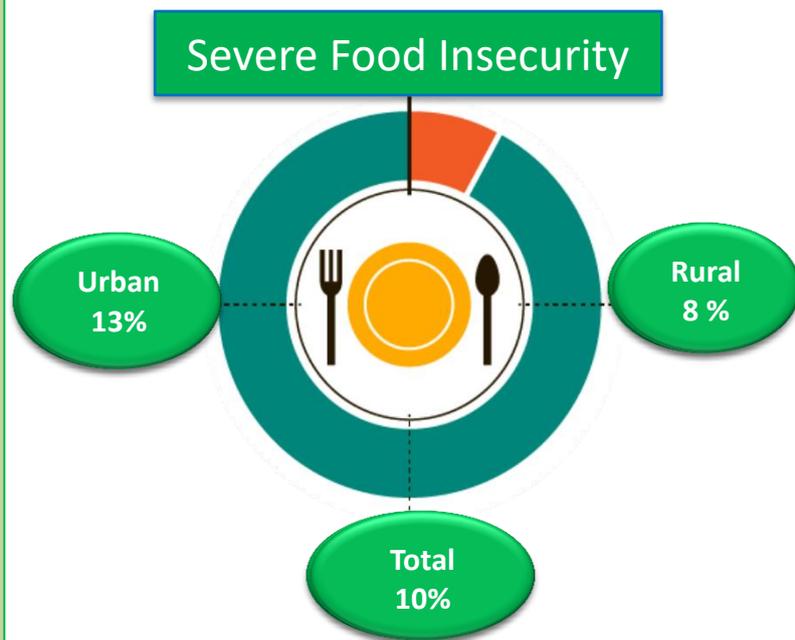
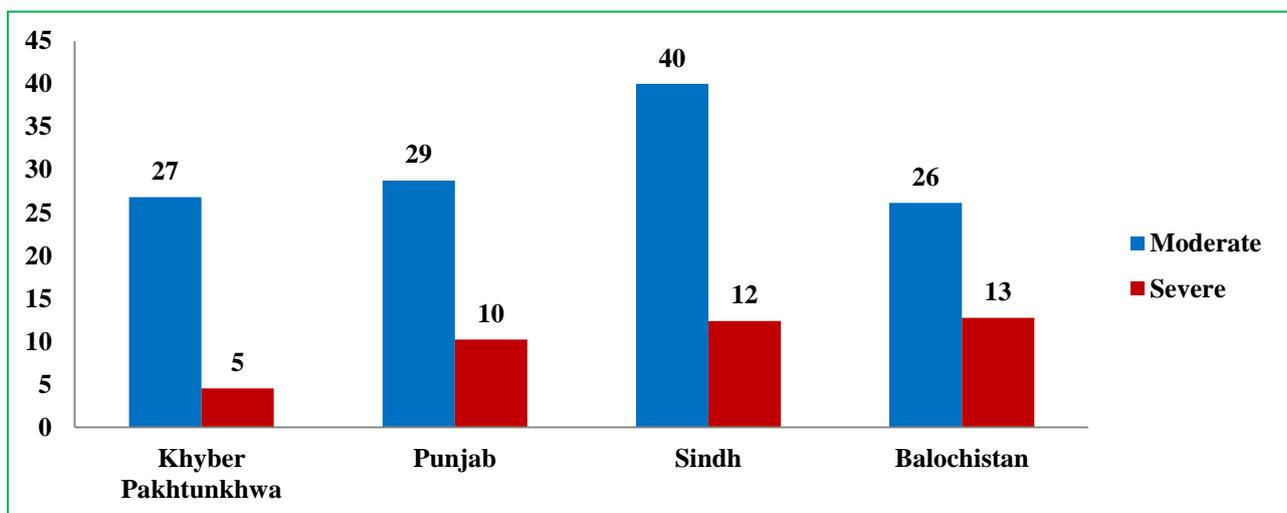
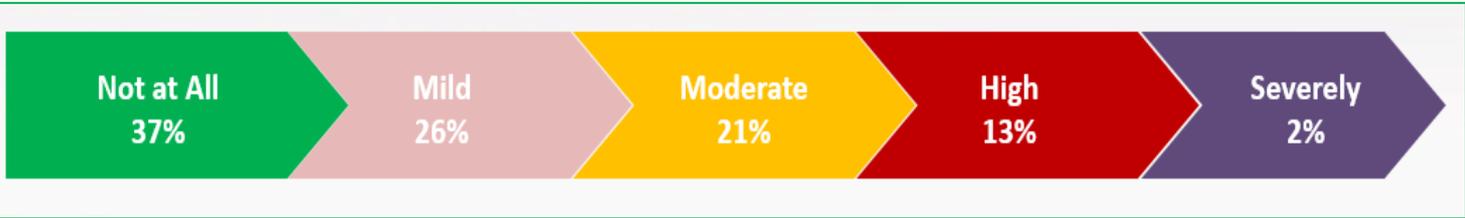
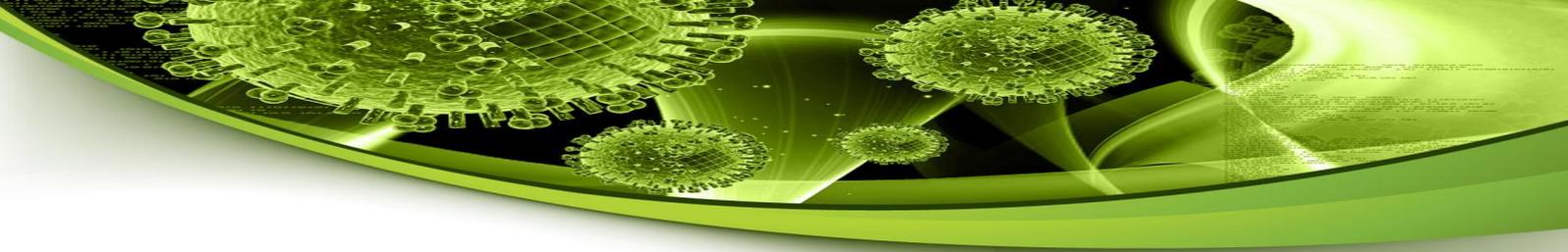


Figure 10: Percentage of Household Reported Faced Food Insecurity by Province





PERCEPTION OF HOUSEHOLD REGARDING IMPACT OF SHOCK (%)

It is found that only 37 percent of the households did not perceive the financial impact of Covid-19 on general well being of household during the Covid period however, 26 percent of the households reported to perceive mild shock, however 36 percent of the households reported that they face either moderate, high or severe financial impact of covid-19 lockdowns. Obseving the housholds by wealth quintiles it is found that highest percentage of households in richest quintile i.e. 56 percent did not perceive any shock as compared to only 25 percent of poorest households. (Figure 11). However, its trend is oppsite in highly and severely affected where only 4 & 1 percent are affected in richest class as compared to 26 & 6 percent in poorest class.

Analysing results by provinces it is revealed that hoshholds in Punjab are at highest on reporting of no fincail impact of Covid-19 lockdowns with **45 percent** followed by Khyber Pakhthunkhwa with **31 percent**. (Figure 12) However, highest percentage of households in Balochistan and Sindh reported to have impact on their livelihoods with **57 and 56 percent** (moderatetely, highly or severely) **respectively**.

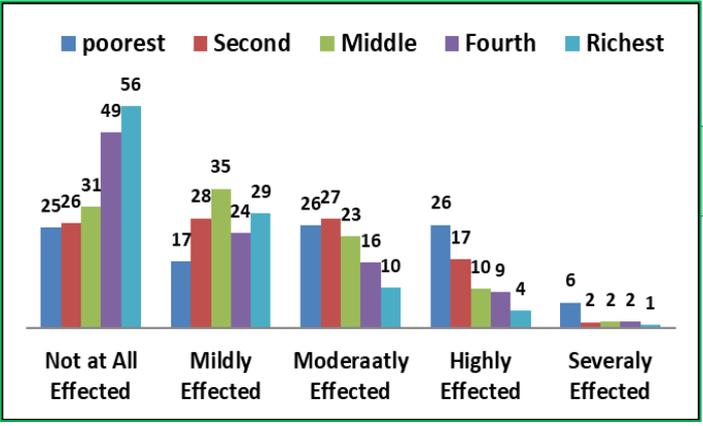
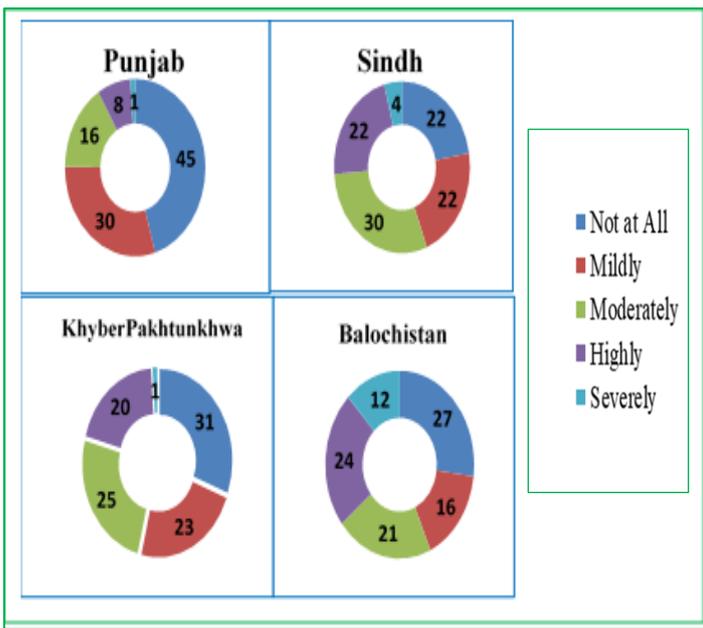


Figure 12: Perception of Households regarding Impact of Shock by Provinc (%)

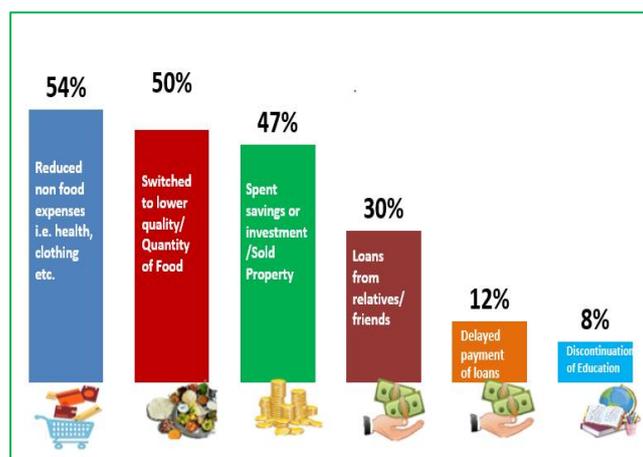




COPING STRATEGIES

This survey covered the aspect of Coping Strategy adopted by household during Covid period tackling of financial impacts of Covid-19 lockdowns on their well being. It is evident from results that **13 percent** of work force who were working before onset of Covid-19 lost their job/couldnot work and significant amount face income reduction during the Covid period. To cope up with the situation, the most adopted strategy observed is **reducing non-food expenditure** (i.e, clothing, footwear, health etc.) with **54 percent**

followed **reduction of food expenses** (either switching to lower quality or reducing the quantity) with **50 percent**, which is also evident from the fact that food insecure households increased during Covid-19 as compared to 2018-19. It is observed that almost **47 percent** of the households alongwith other coping strategies used their **savings/investments/sold property** to tackle the situation, which clearly indicates the gravity of the situation. Beside that almost **one third of households**

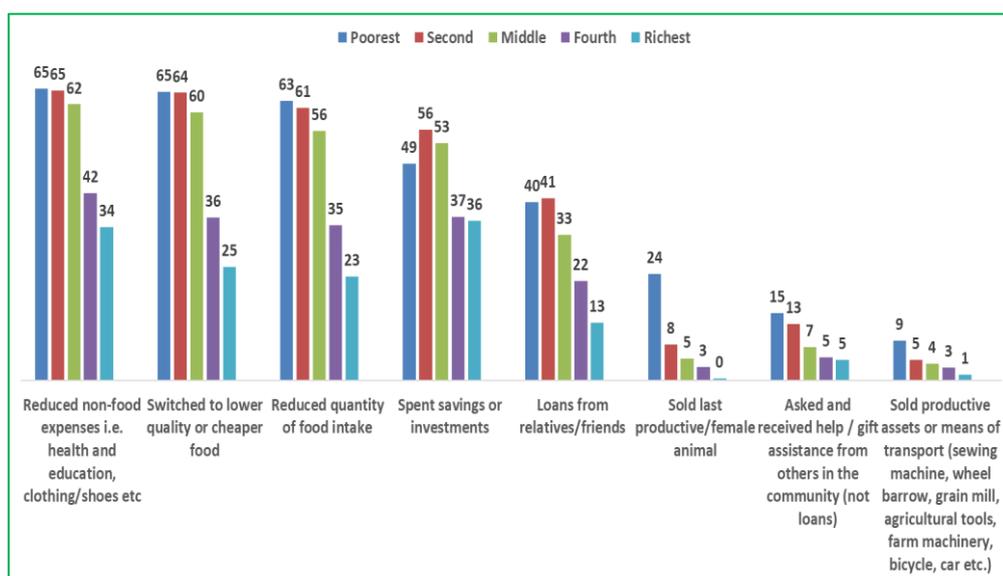


reported that they **borrow money from friends and family**, whereas **12 percent** reported they **delayed the payment** of already taken loan. Due to economic crisis **8 percent** households reported that they haven't paid the monthly fees of school children resulting in discontinuation of the education of their children. This situation is very critical as **30**

percent children **5-16 years** are already **out of school**.

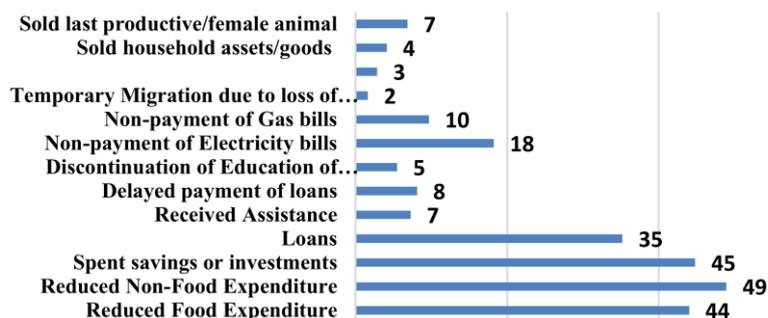
Analysing by wealth quintiles also reveals the severity of the situation, where it is clear that poorest and households from second and middle cope with situation by reducing their food and non food expenditures or spent their savings or by selling their productive assets taking

Figure 13: Coping Strategies Adopted by Household During Covid-19 by Wealth Quintiles

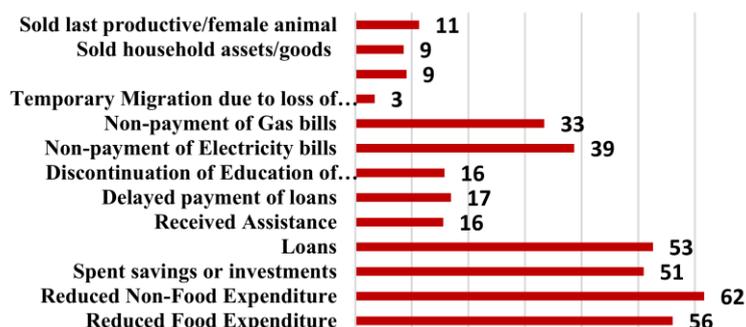


loans while majority of rich used reduction in non food expenditure or spent their savings/ investments.

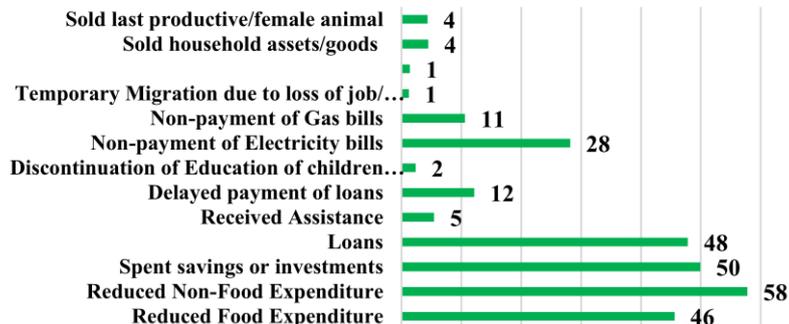
Punjab



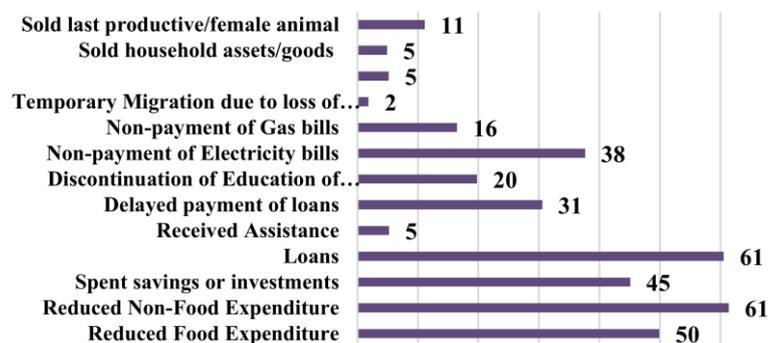
Sindh



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Balochistan



Household of all province adopted almost same pattern to cope up with the situation i.e. **reduction in non-food expenses**. However, in **Punjab and Khber Pakhtunkhwa** the second most adopted strategy reported is use of **savings/ investments/sold/property** for coping the financial shock with with **45 percent** and **50 percent** respectively, while in **Sindh and Balochistan** the second most measure adopted by households to cope with shock was **reduction in food expenditure** with **56 percent & 50 percent**.

Households also manage the situation by **borrowing money from Family, relatives , employer or Banks**, this percentage is is higher in **Balochistan** with **61 percent**, followed by **Sindh** with **53 percent**..

It is worth mentioning that **Government of Pakistan during Lock Down Restrictions** realx households by allowing them to pay Electricity and Gas bills later on in installments. Data reveals that highest percentage of households in **Sindh** with **39 percent** availed this oopurtunity, followed by **Balochistan** with **38 percent**, **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** with **28 percent** and only **10 percent** households households in Punjab avail this opportunity.

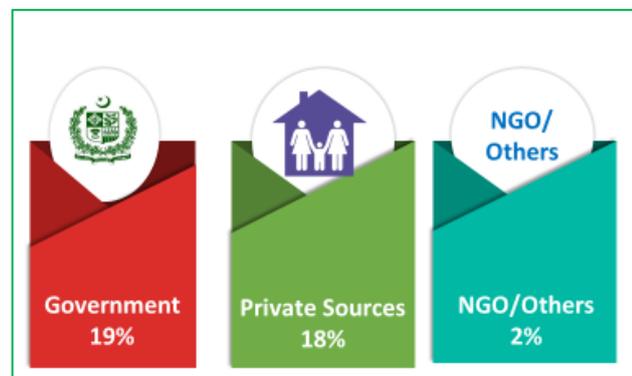
SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE DURING COVID-19

Social protection consists of **policies** and **programs** designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and **social** risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, pandemic/sickness, disability and old age.

In Pakistan during Covid, Government announces Social Protection Packages but **the generosity of the whole nation along with government assistance make it possible to Cope up the situation created by pandemic which has been appreciated Globally**. In this specially designed survey a module regarding Sources of assistance was especially added to analyze the situation. Sources of assistance are being distributed in three categories

- i) Government Sector
- ii) Private Sector and
- iii) NGOs/others

However, it is pertinent to mention here that this includes government programs like **BISP/ Ehsaas, Zakat** etc. for cash transfers only and the Private and NGO assistance can both be cash/ in kind. Further it does not include **the incentives given by government in shape of subsidies in food items, bills, loans etc.** Moreover, these results are based on reporting of households which may be under reported because some households

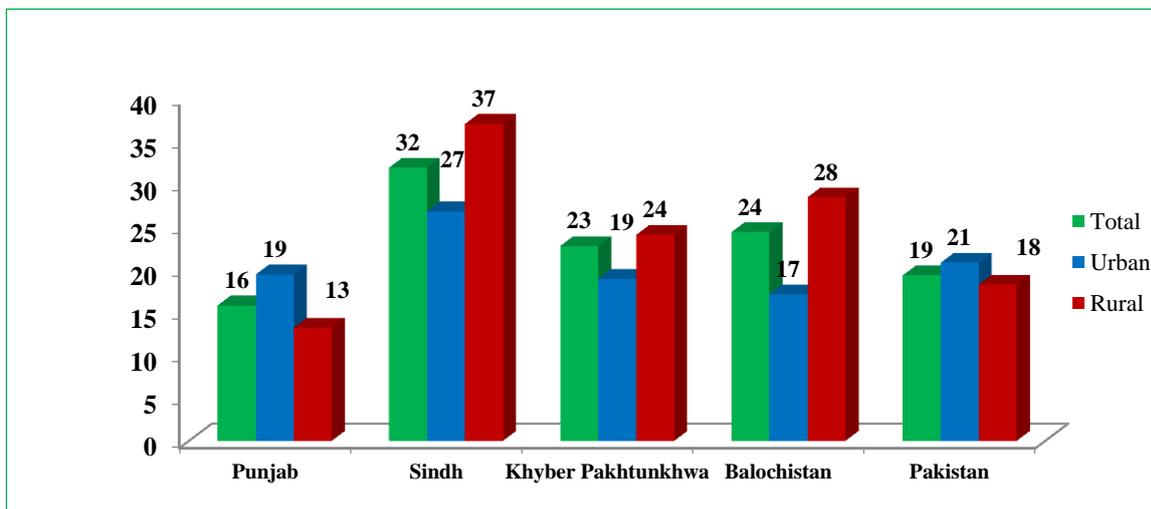


The results indicate that overall **33 percent** of the households i.e. approximately **17.07 million households** received assistance during the covid period. Out of which **19 percent** of the assistance is being provided by the Govt. sector while Private sector assistance is reported as **18 percent**. The share of NGOs is 2 percent only. However, **out of 33 percent, 5.5 percent households had received assistance both from government and private sector.**

Regional Comparison indicates that, overall **21 percent** of the urban households and **19 percent** of the rural households received assistance from Govt. sector. Analyzing by Provinces it is found that highest

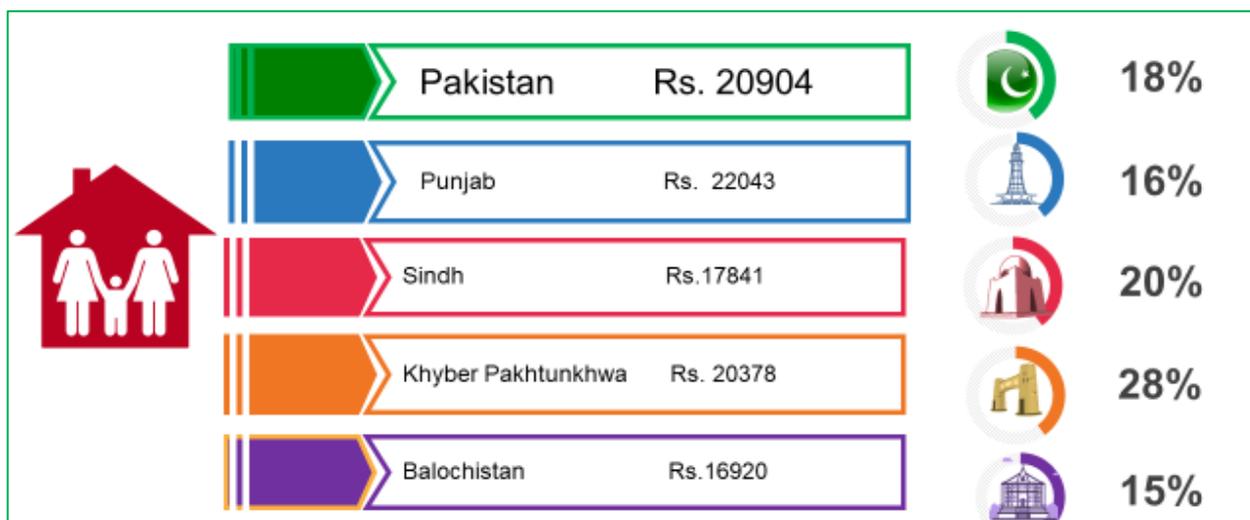
percentage of households i.e. **32 percent** in **Sindh** received financial assistance from government through BISP/ Ehsaas program (Figure 14) followed by Balochistan with **24 percent**. However, Punjab is at bottom among all provinces with **16 percent**. On the average households received Rs. 12000 during the Covid period from BISP/ Ehsaas program.

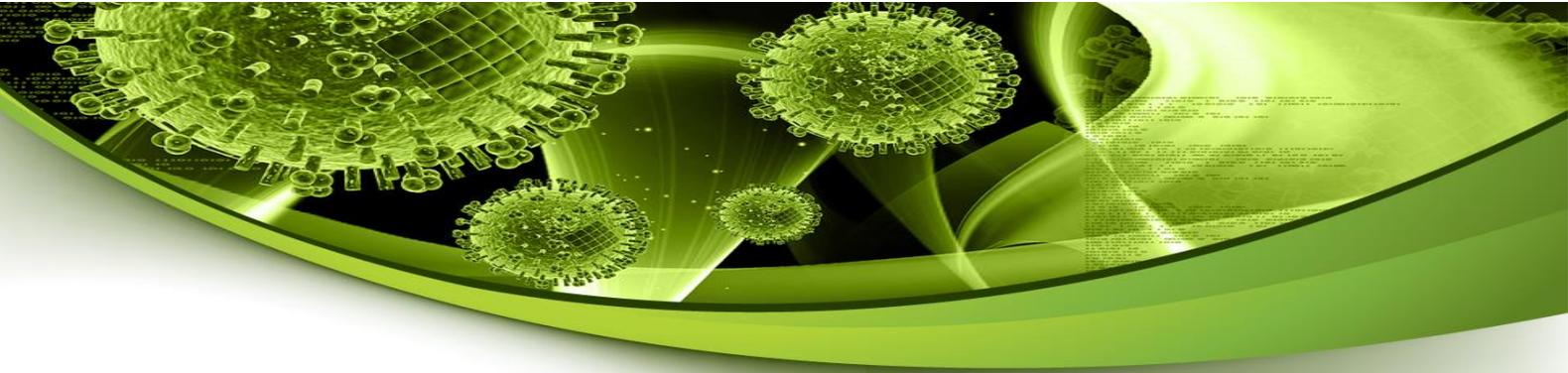
Figure 14: Assistance received from Govt. sector (BISP/ Ehsaas) during the Covid



Private sector Assistance includes the financial assistance provided by any family member, friends, neighbours. Percentage of households that received assistance from Private Sector is highest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa among all provinces with **28 percent**, and Balochistan is at lowest with **15 percent**. (Figure 15). On average households received assistance in cash/kind approximately equal to **Rs. 21000** all over Pakistan during Covid Period. The average assistance received (cash/in kind) from NGO/Others was **Rs. 28000** overall, however its share in total assistance is only **2 percent**.

Figure 15: Assistance received from Private sector during the Covid period





MITIGATION MEASURES

COVID-19 is highly transmissible disease and easily spread by people especially who don't know that they are affected by COVID. Therefore in order to control the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, there was widespread campaign to adopt mitigation measures to avoid the risk of disease. Mitigation measures are defined as the activities performed by the individuals or community to stop the risk of virus with pandemic potential. Mitigation measures includes **social distancing, wearing a mask and washing hands frequently.**

In Pakistan, during the Covid-19 period almost **48 percent** of the population reported that they have practiced social distancing as compared to **10 percent** of the population which reported to never practiced it while outside. However, **27 percent** of the population reported that sometimes they maintain social distancing and **15 percent** rarely maintained the social distance while outside.

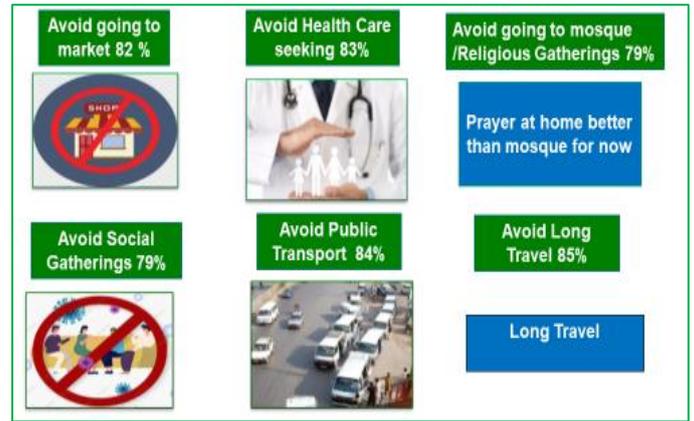


49 percent of the population reported that they always wore a mask when outside during Covid period ,while **26 percent** of the population used mask sometimes when outside. On the other hand **15 percent** of the population used mask **rarely** when outside and **10 percent** of the population have **never used mask** during Covid-19 period.

Approximately **51 percent** of the population frequently washed hands in 24 hours, **always while outside** while **26 percent** did this practice sometimes only when outside. According to the survey **16 percent** of the population reported that they wash hands **rarely** when outside and **8 percent** reported that they never practice handwashing when they were outside during Covid period.



As this virus can be easily transferred from person to person, therefore for curtailing the spread of pandemic, government had given clear instructions to **stay home** and **avoid going outside un necessarily** keep away from social/ religious gatherings. According to the results of the survey vast majority of the population followed the measures to keep them safe from pandemic especially during April – July 2020.

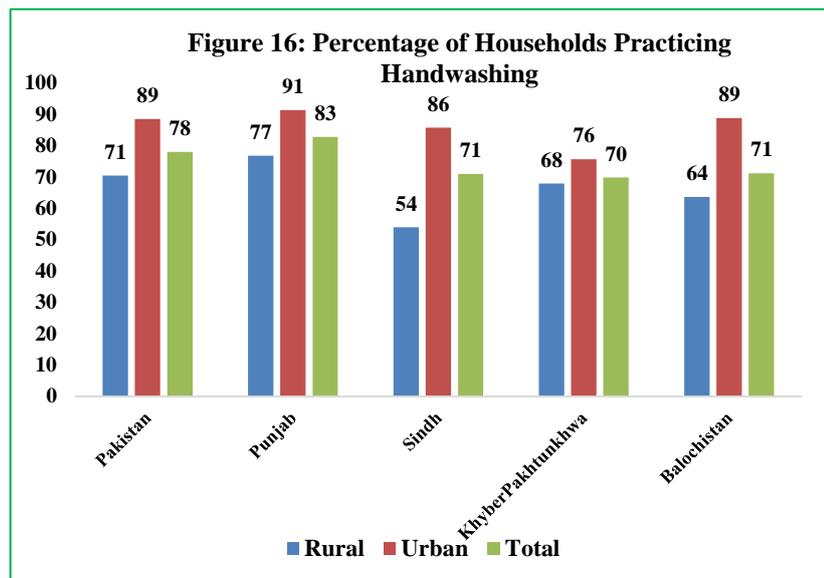


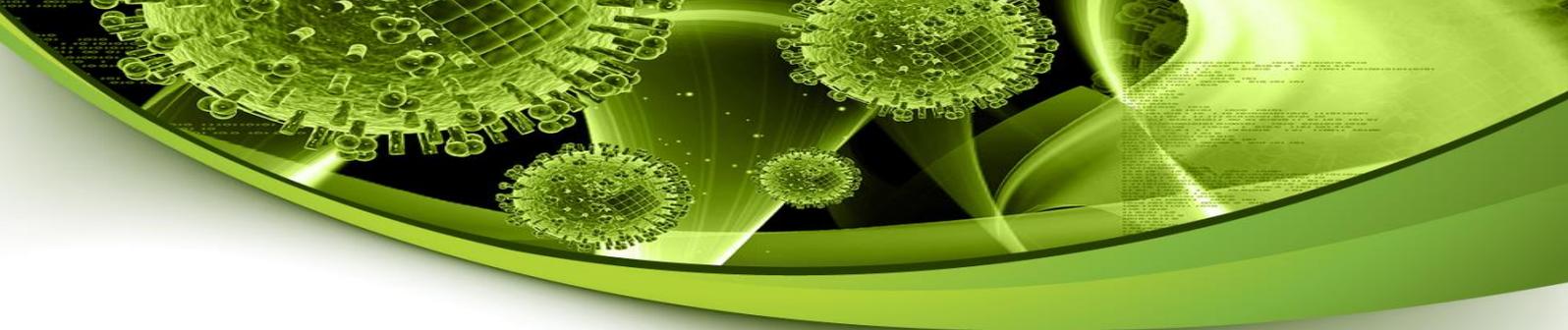
Around **82 percent** of the population avoid going to the market and **79 percent** avoid social gathering during the Covid-19 period. **84 percent** of the population avoid public transport and **83 percent** reported to **avoid seeking health care** during Covid period due to fear of getting covid infection from health facilities. It is worth mentioning here that **79 percent** population avoid **religious gathering and attending mosques** as measure to avoid disease, while **85 percent** population reported that they avoid long travelling during the covid period.

Specific Place of Handwashing:

Handwashing is the major measure used for protection against covid pandemic. This survey collected data from households about specific place of handwashing. According to the results, **72 percent** of the households reported of having the **specific place of handwashing** which significantly improved from **50 percent** reported in PSLM 2018-19 survey. This shows that the **awareness campaigns generated by the media regarding corona virus are highly effective.**

78 percent of the households reported hanwashing practice before and after taking meals or after using toilet.(Figure 16). **89 percent** of the urban households have reported handwashing practice while **71 percent** of the rural households have the handwashing habit before and after meals and using toilet. In handwashing behaviour Punjab is at top with **83 percent** followed by Sindh and Balochistan with **71 percent**. However, Khyberpakhtunkhwa found at bottom with **70 percent**.



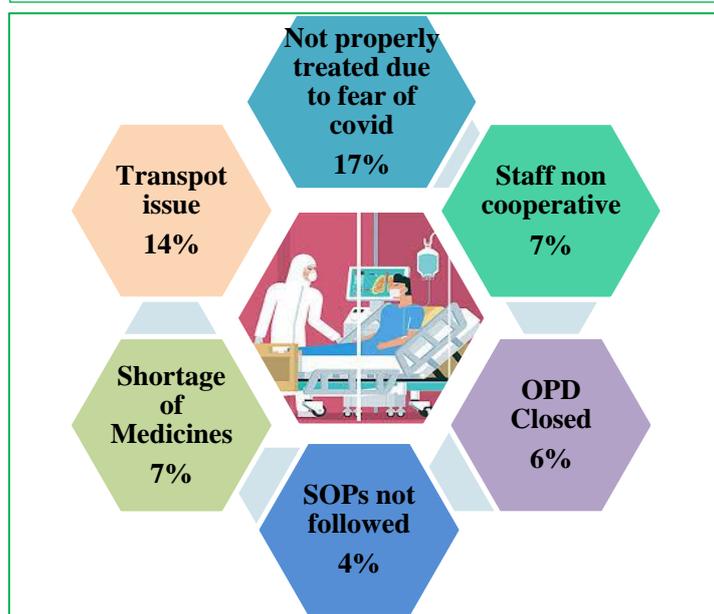


HEALTH CARE FACILITY USED DURING COVID

During the lock down period access and use of health care facilities were reduced particularly owing to implementation of lockdown to curtail spread of virus. People suffered badly due to closure of Out Patient Departments (OPDs, non-availability of transport and medicines, non cooperative staff and fear of Covid-19 Infection.

According to the responses from population that used health facilities, **17 percent** reported to **not treated properly** due to fear of infection of Covid-19, **14 percent** faced **transport issues** while **7 percent** of reported about **shortage of Medicine** and **non-cooperative behavior of staff** as shown in Figure 17.

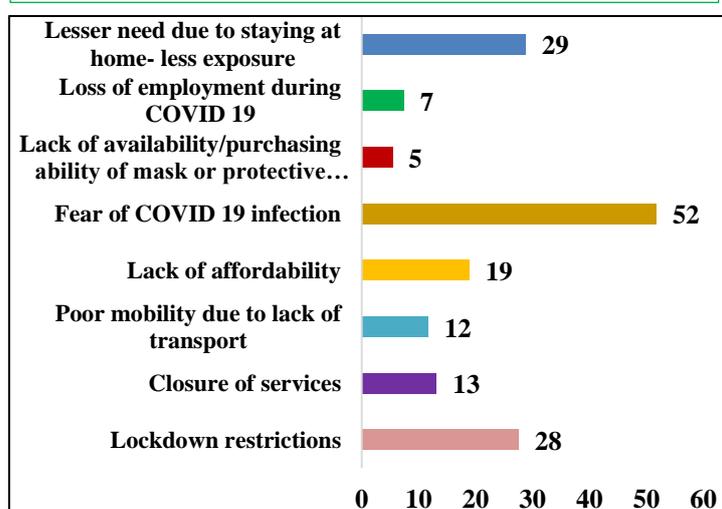
Figure 17: Problems faced by population for Access/Usage of health Facilities during Covid period (%)



Reason for not using Health Facilities during Covid-19 Period

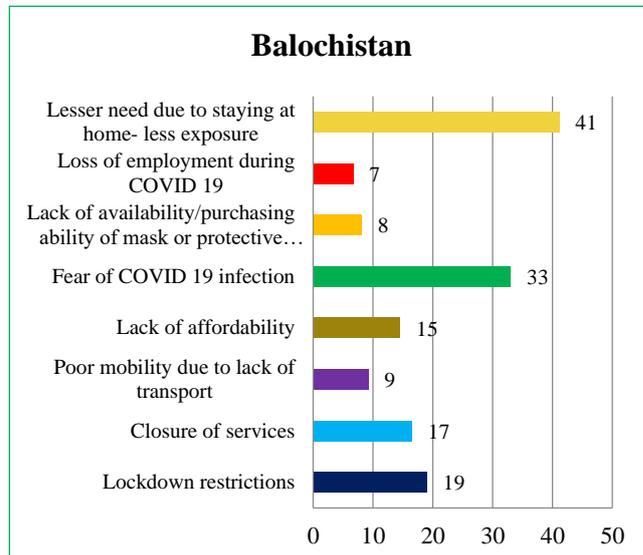
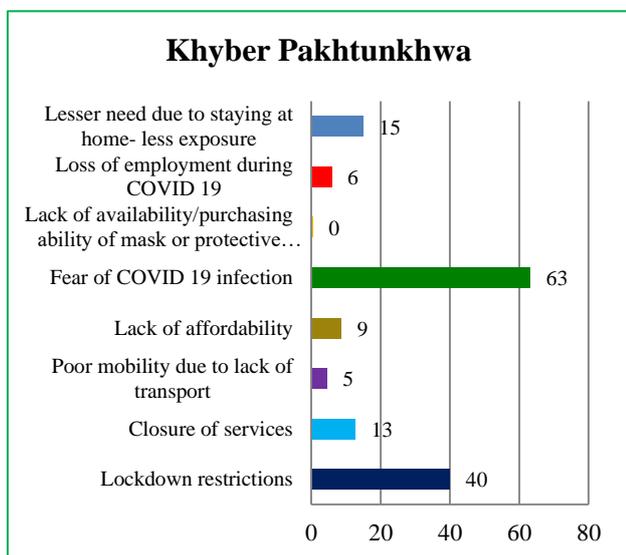
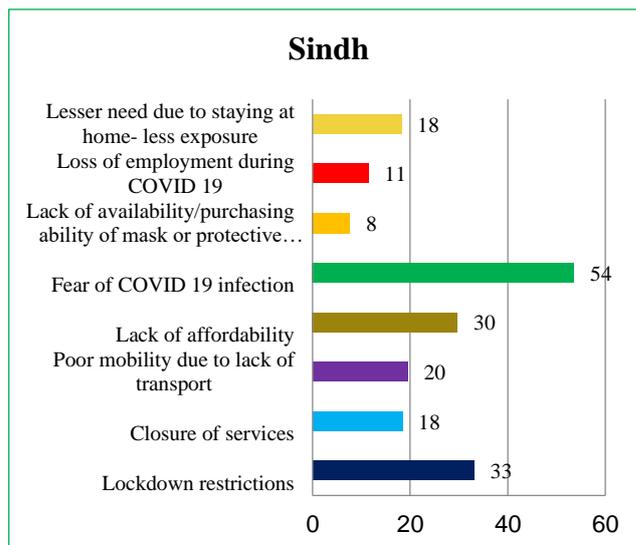
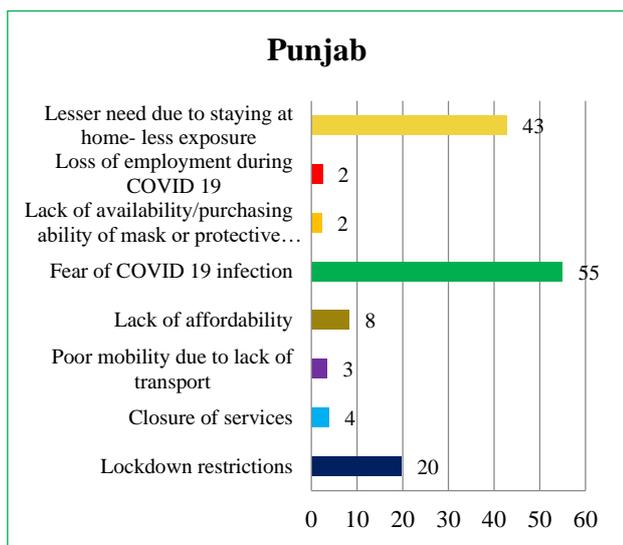
Fear of getting covid-19 infection has been reported as the main reason by the households for not using health facilities during covid period with **52 percent** followed by lesser need due to stay at home with **29 percent**. (Figure 18). However, lockdown restrictions and lack of affordability have also been reported as the reasons for not availing the health facilities with **28 percent** and **19 percent** respectively.

Figure 18: Reasons for not using Health Facilities during Covid period (%)



Reduced Use of Health Services by Provinces

In Punjab, Sindh and Khber Pakhtunkhwa **55 percent, 54 percent and 63 Percent** households cited fear of Covid-19 infection for not availing health facilities during Covid-19 as shown in below figures. In Balochiostan the most cited reason reported by houesholds for not using health facilities is lesser need due to staying at home with **41 percent** followed by fear of Covid infection with **33 percent** for not using health facilities. Lesser need due to staying at home and lock down restrictions are the most cited reasons for not using health facilities after fear of Covid-19 infections in Punjab ,Sindh and Khyber Pakhthunkhwa.



List of Participants of Consultative meetings For Finalization of Questionnaire & Methodology for Special Survey for Evaluating Impact of COVID-19

National/ International Organization

- Dr. G.M Arif, Independent researcher, Member of Governing Council
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- Dr. Dur-Naab, PIDE
- Mr. Zafar-ul-Hassan, Chief PD&SI
- Mr. Shahid Naeem. Chief, PD&SI
- Dr. Haroon Sarwar, Assistant Chief, PD&SI
- Mr. Muhammad Saleh, Assistant Chief, PD&SI
- Mr. Nadeem Ahmed, Social Policy Advisor, Federal SDG Unit
- Mr. Ali Kemal, SDG Unit
- Ms. Silvia Redaelli, World Bank
- Mr. Ajmal Jehangir, FAO
- Mr. Umer Malik, UNDP

Participants from PBS

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- Mr. Bahrawar Jan, Member/DDG (NA), PBS Islamabad
- Mr. Ismail Khan, DDG, PBS Islamabad
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- Ms. Rabia Awan, Director(PSLM), PBS
- Mr. Naseer Ahmed, Chief Statistical Officer (Price), PBS
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