

# Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Nutrition Security of Migrant Families in Chhatarpur and Sheopur Districts, Madhya Pradesh, India

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## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is an economic and health shock placing a global threat on the food security of millions [1]. With the spread of the pandemic in early 2020, countries began to lockdown allowing only essential economic sectors to remain open [2] resulting in increased unemployment [3]. One of the strictest lockdowns in the world [4] was enforced in India on March 25, 2020 [5]. Migrant laborers in India were especially affected during the lockdown as they lost their employment [6]. This study aimed to assess the consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown on the food security among migrant laborers in India.

## METHODS & APPROACH

- Survey of 13,858 migrant laborers from Chhatarpur and Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Data collection in August and September 2020 by GIZ, WHH, MGSA and DMKS
- Multiple linear regression and binary logistic regression using IBM SPSS 27.0 were employed to examine several determining factors of food security
- A dietary diversity score was used as an indicator to assess the food security status

## FINDINGS & INTERPRETATIONS

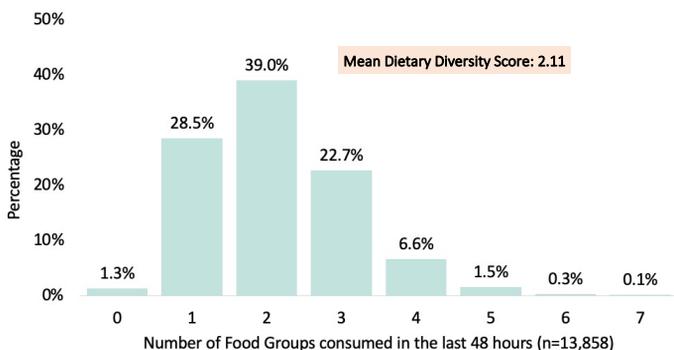


Figure 1: Dietary Diversity Score

Dietary diversity score of the respondents was low

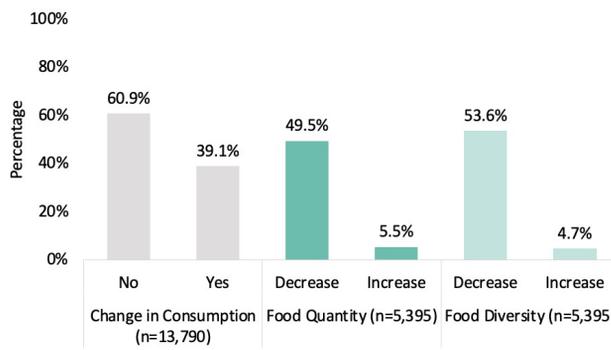


Figure 2: Change in Food Consumption after Return to the Village

~ 40% of respondents experienced a change in food consumption due to the lockdown

	Assets					Social Relations		
	Higher Education	Higher Income	Cultivable Land	Hand Wash Facilities	Smartphone Ownership	Gender: Male	Older Age	Scheduled Caste / Tribe
DDS ↑	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	- / not sig.
Food Quantity ↓	not sig.	-	+	not sig.	+	+	not sig.	not sig.
Food Diversity ↓	-	+	+	-	+	not sig.	not sig.	+ / not sig.

Table 1: Overview of Regression Results. + more likely / positively associated. - less likely / negatively associated. Green positive short-term outcome. Red negative short-term outcome.

Findings indicate that the majority of above examined assets and social relations had an impact on the food security status of the respondents

Respondents with higher food security levels prior to the pandemic are assumed to experience a decrease in food diversity / quantity to a larger extent

## CONCLUSION

Migrant laborers in Chhatarpur and Sheopur districts were in general asset-poor and faced additional challenges (e.g., illiteracy, social positioning), which in times of COVID-19, negatively influenced their food security status.

## REFERENCES

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