

Rapid Survey

“COVID-19 Pandemic And Beyond FROM YOUTH LENS”



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1. About IGSSS

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit organisation working with the mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity. Established in 1960, IGSSS works for development, capacity building and enlightenment of the vulnerable communities across the country for their effective participation in development. With its presence in 17 states, 83 districts, IGSSS has set its thematic focus on promoting sustainable livelihood, energizing the youth as change makers, protecting lives, livelihood and assets from the impact of hazards, advocating for the rights of City Makers (Homeless Residents) and developing cadre of leaders from the community and civil society organizations. Gender and Youth are underlining theme across all its interventions

2. Youth Program in NE

In 1986 marked the birth of its flagship program on youth development called SMILE (Student Mobilization Initiatives and Learning through Experience). Initially launched to mobilize the youth particularly College and University students and provide a platform to discuss social and its developmental issues. The program provides opportunities for both students and drop out youth to sharpen their understanding of the socio-economic and political situation in the country through field based exposures, interaction and involvement. This program operates in the belief that such experiential learning about the realities of the rural, tribal and urban poor will motivate the youth to act for change. Many lives have been touched and the journey continues. In North East, the program is ongoing in two states Assam and Manipur.

3. INSIDE THE DOCUMENT

The document encapsulated the findings of the rapid survey “**COVID 19 IMPACTS ON YOUTH**” undertaken by the IGSSS North East Youth Team, an attempts to capture the distress and hardship the pandemic had brought upon, document voices from the field directly or indirectly impacted by the pandemic.

The survey also shed lights on new opportunity for the youth to maneuver and navigates the crisis; the need for support mechanism in collaboration with other stakeholders to finding appropriate solution to reduce the impact on economy vis-a-vis the youth by using locally available resources. The document would become handy for the policy makers and humanitarian organization in preparing a strategy to address youth focus program during and post lockdown.

4. Context

The entire world comes to a standstill with nation after nation declaring lockdown to contain the spread of the deadly virus COVID 19. The rapid spread of the virus caught many off guard scampering for cover underplayed or denial on the gravity of the virus at the initial stage. The pandemic had engulfed the entire landscape from coast to coast. Till date it had affected more than 74 lakhs and clime more than 4 lakhs human lives. Till June 10th 2020 the pandemic had affected more than 2.8 lakhs and claimed more than 8000 lives in India alone. The pandemic devastating impact on world economic is massive. According to a UN agency, nearly 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide due to the corona virus pandemic. In its preliminary assessment report titled "COVID-19 and world of work: Impacts and responses", the International Labour

Organization (ILO) calls for urgent, large-scale and coordinated measures across three pillars - protecting workers in the workplace, stimulating.

The national lockdown that began on March 24, 2020 will end on 31st May 2020 with the likelihood of extension (Lockdown 5.0) in few pockets that are considered hot spot had already taken a heavy toll on both human lives and the already battered and sagging economy. Despite the RBI and Central Government economic stimulus to reboot the economy, the booster dose is far from being relief to the economy and confidence into the mind of the common men. **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said 27 million youth in the age group of 20-30 years lost their jobs in April 2020 following a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19.** Employment rate also rose from **26.4% to 28.6%**. Data from CMIE's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey shows youngsters in the age group 20-24 years accounted for 11% of those who lost jobs while they constituted 8.5% to the total employed persons in the country in 2019-20. ¹ Uncertainty looms large. In the recently report published titled "Covid-19 and Lockdown. The mass exodus of migrant labour from various parts of the city would add more pressure o the home economy.

In the recently study titled **"Impact on Mental Health"** (jointly published by four eminent persons from Lucknow) **depression** was found to be high among the respondents of age range 15-35 years! Anxiety was found to be prevalent among those belonging to 21-25 years of age and Stress was found to be high in individuals of 21-25 years of age.

5. Objectives

As an organization mandated to work with Youth, it is imperative to be aware of the immediate impact and come up with plan through the lens of youth. At the back drops this, IGSSS North East Region conducted an online rapid survey with the following objectives

- To understanding the hardship faced by the youth due impact of COVID- 19
- To assess accessibility of relief and support system present in the community
- Explore avenue or strategy for dealing with emerging issues post the Lockdown

6. Methodology:

The study had covered two states Assam and Manipur. The data for the study were collected through a structured questionnaire covering two aspects- socio economic and psycho aspect to rapidly gauge the first impression and its impact of the pandemic on the youth population. The tools used for data collection and analysis is Monkey survey, an online apps based. The survey respondents are young people in the age group of 15-30years.

The survey consists of two parts. The first section on **socio economic impact** of the pandemic that are directly linked to their primary source of income and other variables with **171 respondents**. The second portion on the **mental health** with **112 respondents**. In all there are 171 youths (80% male and 20% female) respondents 7 districts- Churachandpur and Ukhul (Manipur) and Karbi Anglong, Bodo Territorial Region (BTR), Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Bongaigaon (Assam) The respondents are randomly selected from IGSSS project areas, student union leaders,

student of high school and colleges and those associated with youth development program. The survey was started in mid May and closed on 7th June 2020.

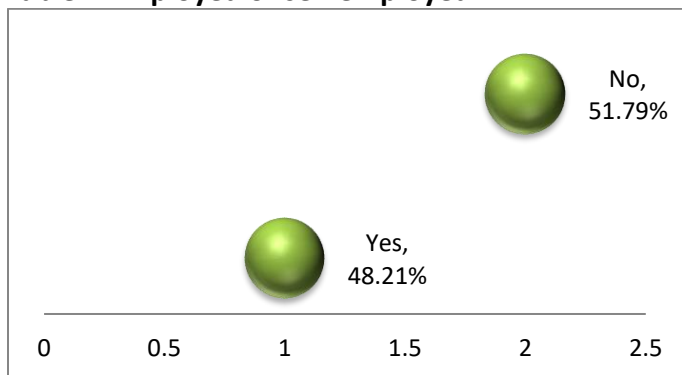
7. Challenges or Limitation

- It **cannot fully capture emotional responses or feelings** of respondents as it was done online. here is there is no way to observe facial expression, reactions or body language that are vital adding value to the overall and also whether the fully understand the question or not
- The questions were designed to elicit response with focus on quantity, leaving no room for probing questions and capturing of qualitative aspect.
- Many respondents were not used to this type of online survey and many did not response to all the answer
- The survey questions were framed in English and limited to selected few from urban areas
- Question on mental health aspect and analysis were done item wise and not necessarily reflect a comprehensive picture.

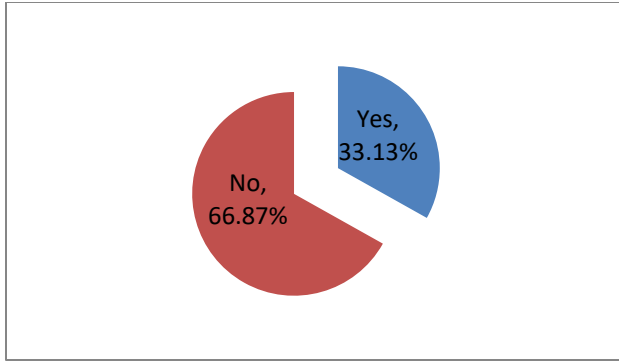
8. Narration or Interpretation

Section A. Socio Economic and its variables:

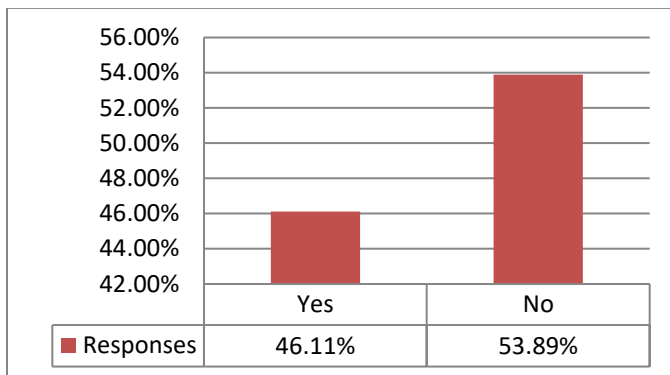
Table I: Employed or self employed



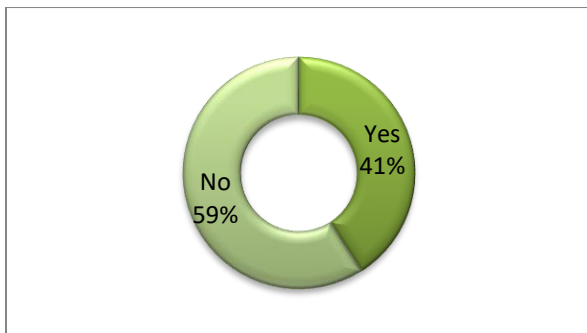
The above table shows that only 48% of the respondents were engaged into livelihood actives and self supporting whereas the 52% were still dependent on their parents for their daily basic needs before Lockdown started



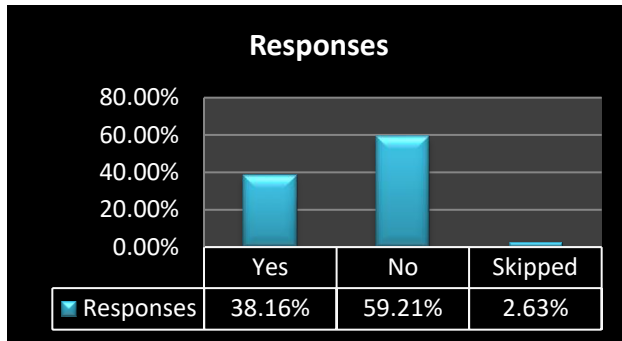
The above table indicates that at the time of the survey 38% of the respondent still able to continue with their livelihood activities after the lockdown and majority of them are not able to continue with their livelihood activity since the lockdown began. It must be noted that the survey was undertaken during the second phase of the lockdown less positive cases registered.



The above table shows that 55% of the respondents report to receiving support from the local government. The elected local Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and council member were providing food items like rice, salt, oil and lentils to the respective constituent. On the other hand, 45% of the respondent reported of not receiving any support from local administration

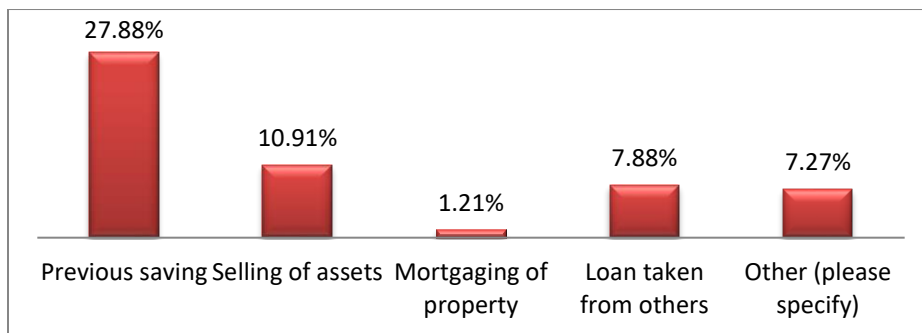


Of the total respondents 41% of them are the sole bread winner of the family. In other words, the family totally depends on them for their daily needs and other basic necessities.

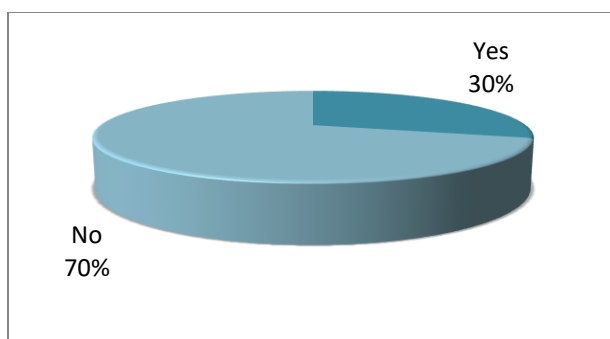


Now a days, we are all being surrounded by the dangerous covid-19 which is still not decreasing is the greatest challenges. We should help each other and should always keep awareness within us. The government always should provide necessary materials and facilities for the public to get safety from the famines situation and not withdraw the lockdown until the situation becomes better.

The table indicates that 60% of the respondent did not have adequate money or resources to meet their daily needs whereas 38% are able to meet their daily needs.



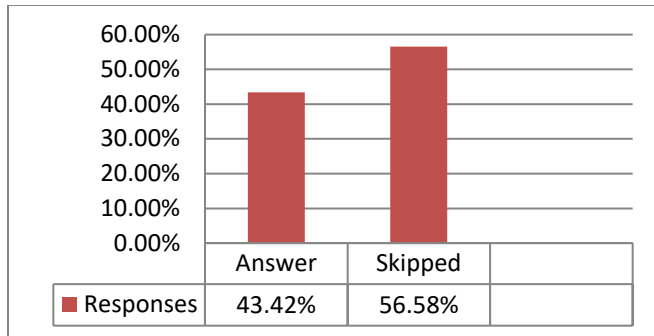
The above table shows different ways of managing the family especially for those the sole bread winner to meet their daily needs. Majority of the respondents are able to manage with the saving they have and 10% sold their existing assets to cope with the situation, 8% manage with loan and 7% had cited others like salary, manual labour, and painting



The greatest challenge i found in this lockdown is how to spent money for our daily basics in this crisis situation.

70% of the respondents did not have alternate livelihoods options. With the returning of many migrant would add more pressure into economy.

Opinion on greatest challenges and opportunity

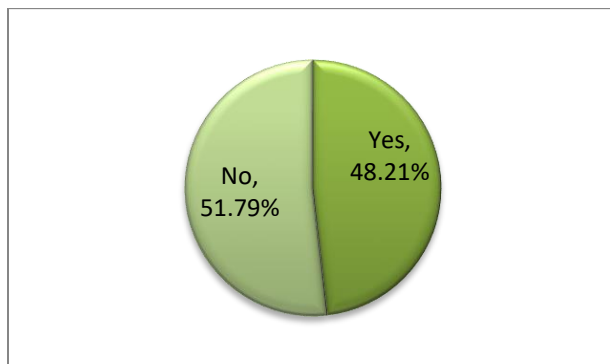


Inflation of goods and services economic downfall which cause recession.. Fall of GDP in country lower and middle families will face hardship”

Challenges is to ensure that people will follow guidelines and opportunity is that people could work and earn again

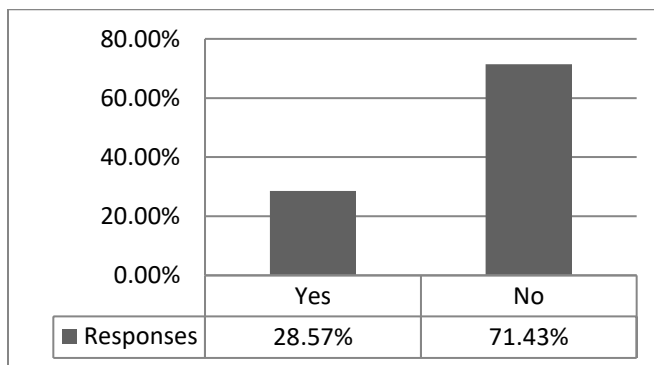
The above table shows that only half of the respondents respond to the question and majority of them skip the questions. However from whatever response received, the concern is more on overcoming the pandemic, lockdown to open and continue to work again. *“I'm in so much trouble already. no lockdown again”*

Section 2: Mental Health

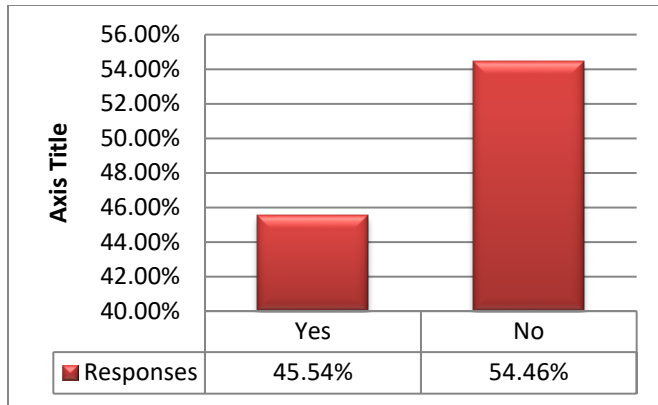


The table shows 48% of the respondent felt nervous about the virus and lockdown.

Trouble sleeping

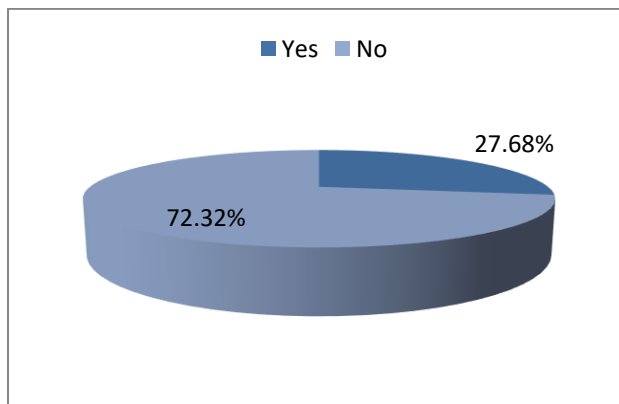


28% of the respondents reported of having sleeping problems at night. The daily news they hear and saw, rapid widespread of the virus and their career or job make them sleepless at night.



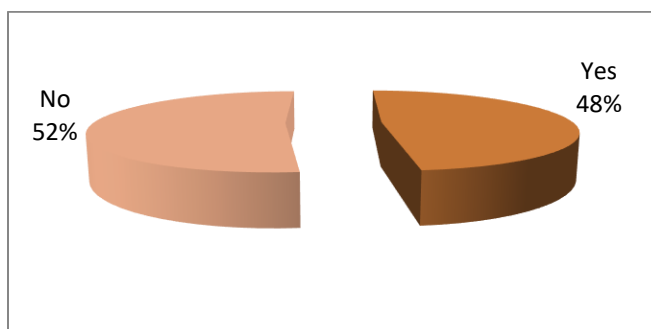
45% of the respondents responded to have lost their interest in doing things of what they used to enjoy before the pandemic and lockdown. As there were no follow up questions on the reason for the loss of interest, the finding was shared to an expert from NIMHANS. This behavior can be attributed to a loss of self-worth and helplessness.

Feeling of worthlessness

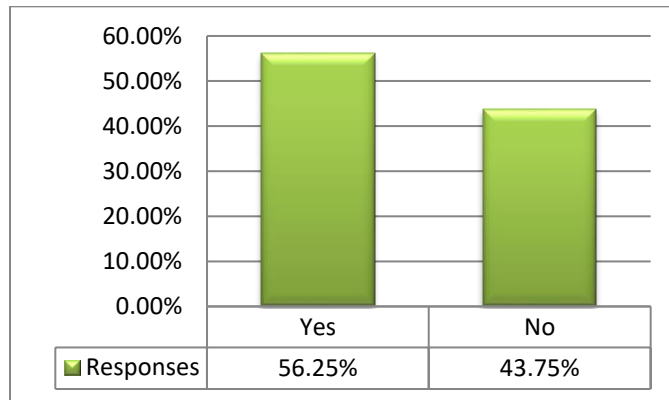


27.68% of the respondents feel that they are worthless. In other words, as a result of the lockdown, they are not able to do any work and contribute towards the family income as a result of the lockdown.

Easily annoyed or irritable



With restriction in movement during lockdown everyone is confining within the four walls of their house makes life more difficult especially for the youth and in particular bread winner of the family. 48% respondent says that they become more irritable because of the lockdown or loss of job



The table shows that 83% of the respondents are finding it difficult to make a decision presumably overwhelming by loss of job, fear of being get infected, hearing about the widespread of virus through news and social network, misinformation about the virus and news they read or hear about loss of human lives and loss of jobs and impending recession.

9. Findings from the survey that require attentions

- 48% of the respondents were engaged into livelihood actives and self supporting and out of which 38% are still able to continue with their livelihood activities after the lockdown. In other works, 10% reported of not able to continue their livelihood activity due to lockdown
- Many youth in the region are not skilled labor and singly focus on the job at hand. They did not have much awareness or not explore opportunities that are in abundance.
- Youth who were the sole bread winner had to resort to distress selling and mortgaging of asset and by borrowing from others as there are unable to continue their work
- 41% of the respondents are the bread winner of the family and the rest are still dependent on their parents. The latter group are mainly school or college going students
- 55% of the respondents received some kind of support from government.-elected local Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and council member. Relief items are mainly food ration- rice, salt, oil and lentils to the respective constituent. 45% of the respondent reported of not receiving any support from local administration
- Almost 50% of them having suffer from mental stress due to the pandemic

10. Few potential areas that can be explore for coping with the pandemic

- Government or financial institution to extend financial assistance to those industry or enterprises those that employs youths whose livelihood were disrupted or ended due to the lockdown.
- Online and offline campaign to sensitize public and mobilization of the youth to advocate and put pressure on the state and district administration for effective implementation of development schemes announced by the government to review the economy.
- Immediate implementation of the stimulus package to reboot the economy in the wake of the pandemic to stimulate the economy by the government. Simplify the new guideline of the packages to speed up the process and at the same time ensure that accurate and complete information reached the intended target groups
- There is a great emphasis on integration of technology in every aspect of our daily life in present and beyond. With almost 80-90% of the youth having access to internet and online information, there is an urgent need to re orient the youth on **“How do I get maximum benefit out of Technology”** such as free online course to enhance their marketability skills, online earning opportunity and online supports
- Strategy change in the skill training program that had been greatly influence by the choice of the youth and in addition to that it should be market driven and those where technical expertise are available.
- Web chain network and coordination from village to state level with youth leaders, policy makers, civil societies and other key stakeholders either by physical or virtual meeting to deliberate, review existing policy to suit the need of the context and come up with a concrete and tangible strategy for addressing the pandemic impact and moral support to the distress youth.
- There is an urgent need to explore and identity alternative livelihood options that will not only make the youth but also rural community self reliant by deploying a blend of reviving/strengthening of rural livelihood such as farming, Crafts- bamboo, cane, agriculture, animal husbandry etc and linking them with technical agency and market supply chain at both district and state level.
- **IGSSS** as an organization can take the lead in organizing a series of session on mental health to support the distress and depress youth with technical support from qualified person to facilitate a session on stress management /psycho social care especially with those who had loss their source of livelihood on priority and later on to larger population

Conclusion

This survey had provided some insight on the impact of COVID- 19 from the perspective of youth, kind of challenges they face and their coping mechanism. It would be imperative to undertake another survey to have a clear picture of the ground realities that will facilitate to identify the gaps and potential opportunity to address those emerging issues as a result of the pandemic.

It is also strongly recommended at this time to three immediate measures be taken up like stress management session with highly vulnerable groups (migrant workers, sole bread winner of the family, those who lost a job) and financial support to revive their livelihood. Last but not the least, to develop a mechanism for collaboration of all existing CBOs and other traditional institutions to collectively work together for durable solution.

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Questionnaire

Socio Economic Aspect

- I. Were you employed /self employed before the Lockdown?
- II. Are you still employed/self employed now?
- III. In the prevailing lockdown situation, are you still able to work and earn?
- IV. Do you get any Aid and support from the Govt. during this lockdown?
- V. Is you family totally dependent on you financially?
- VI. How are you managing now to meet your daily needs?
- VII. Do you have alternate livelihoods options in the current situation?
- VIII. Greatest challenges you face because of the lockdown and opportunity you foresee post the lockdown?

Mental Health Related

- I. Do you feel nervous, tense or worried?
- II. Do you have Trouble sleeping?
- III. Do you feel that you are worthless person?
- IV. Have you lost interest in things that you enjoy earlier?
- V. Are you becoming easily annoyed or irritable?
- VI. Do you find it difficult to make decision?
- VII. District and Occupation
- VIII. Gender