



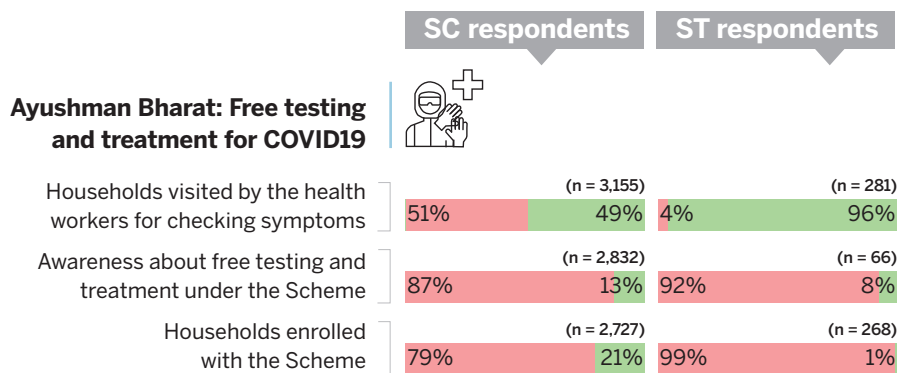
Delayed and Denied: Injustice in COVID-19 Relief Bihar Factsheet



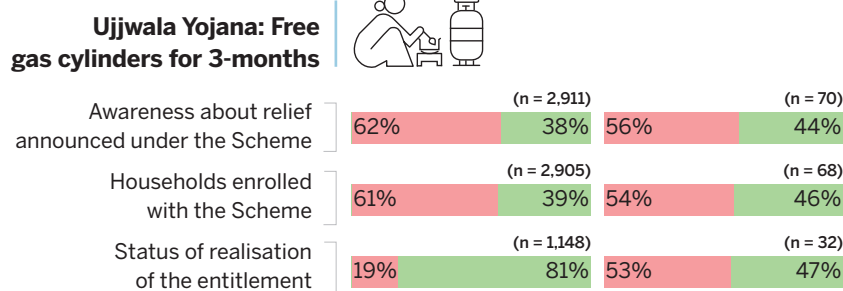
How well are COVID-19 related entitlements announced by the Central Government, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyaan Yojana, reaching the poor and the marginalised? An assessment of the extent of realisation of key entitlements of the relief package across 25,032 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in India, by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR).



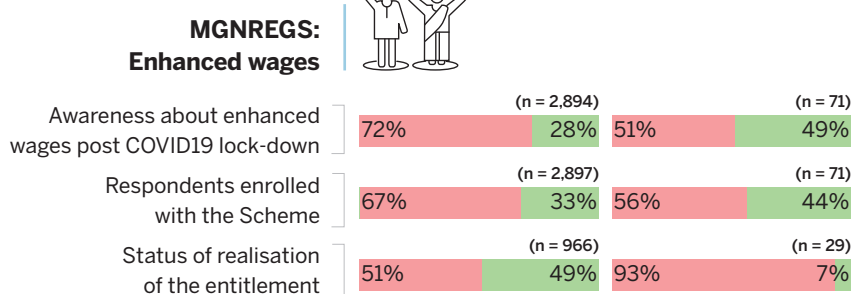
Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes



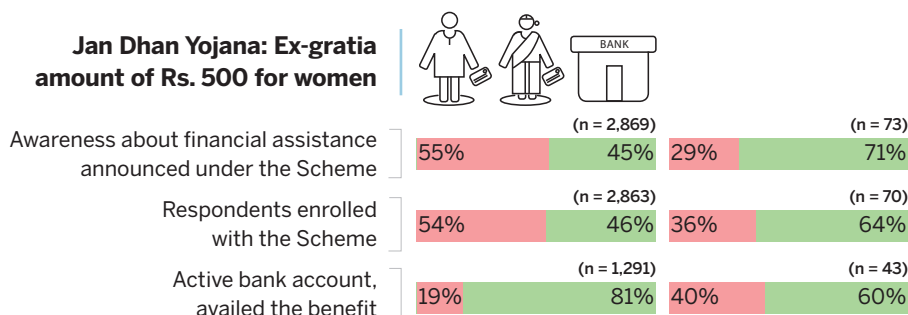
The scheme provides Rs. 5 lakh health insurance to the poor, especially those determined by the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. The assessment shows that though a small number, nearly all of the ST households were visited by healthcare workers, as opposed to more than half of the SC households that were not visited by them post the lockdown. A small section knew about free testing and treatment under the Scheme, but very few were insured.



The scheme was launched in 2016 for women of Below Poverty Line families, to safeguard their health by providing them with clean cooking fuel (LPG). The serious coverage gap underpins the partial social protection to the SCs and STs, and reveals the prevalence of health inequality against the women in normal times and the pandemic. Though poor awareness, most among the registered had received free cylinders.



Under the COVID-19 Relief Package, the Central Government announced enhanced MGNREGS wages by Rs 20 from April 1, 2020, making it Rs 202 per day. The assessment reveals massive ignorance about the increase in wages among the SCs and nearly half of the ST households. With a small proportion of households registered under the Scheme, the rate of realisation of the benefit also remains despicably low.

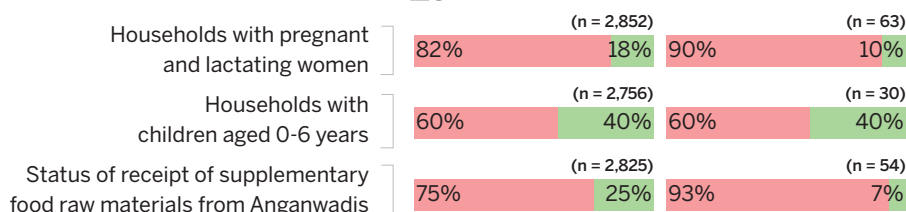


The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure financial inclusion of the poor, with zero-balance bank accounts. In COVID, direct transfer of Rs 500 was announced for women account holders. The assessment reveals poor awareness among SC and ST households about the entitlement. And though a good number of registered households secured the entitlement, a notable number were not registered, excluding them from useful monetary assistance during the lockdown.

Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

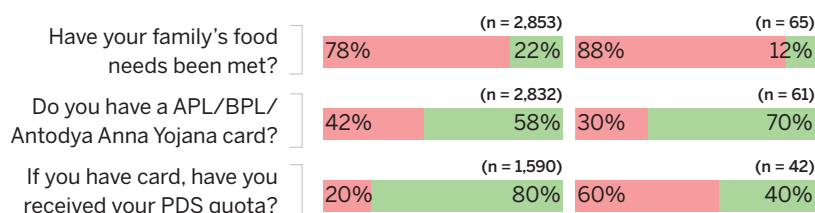
SC respondents ST respondents

ICDS: Home delivery of raw material



The COVID Package provided for delivery of raw supplementary food material by Anganwadi workers to households with pregnant / lactating women and children aged 0-6 years. Of the eligible households with eligible women and children, a substantial proportion had still not received the assistance till May-end. The delay which also equals to a denial in this case, despite high risk of malnutrition, hunger and diseases.

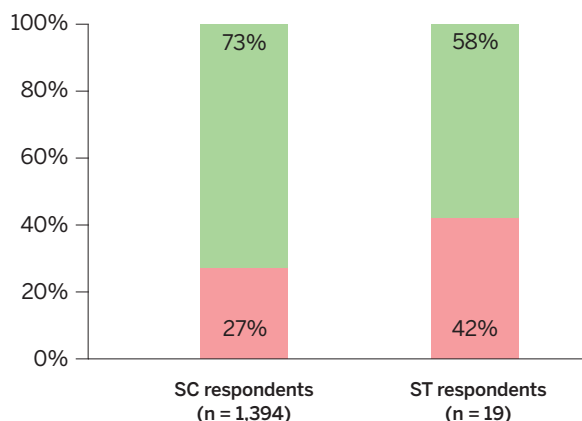
Public Distribution Scheme: Additional /free food-grains



The COVID-19 Relief Package included free 5kg cereal and 1 kg pulses from April to June through the Public Distribution System for ration card holders. A significant proportion of the SC and ST households were not enrolled. Of those registered, most SC households had received the entitlement, while most ST households reported the receipt of partial quota only. The quality of ration was reportedly poor. Overall, food needs were not sufficiently met.

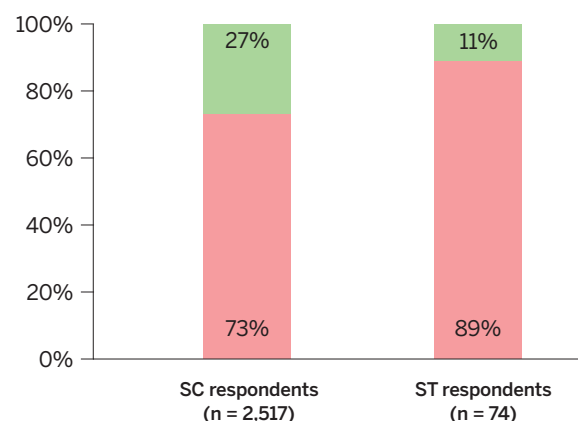
How much of your PDS quota have you received?

■ Partial ■ Full



Is the quality of ration/food distributed good?

■ Poor ■ Good



Methodology: The NCDHR is conducting a phase-wise inclusion assessment of the awareness, enrolment, and the extent of realisation of COVID related national and state relief entitlements announced by the Central Government, by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes across the states in India. The process aims to enable greater inclusion and realisation of the social protection schemes by the SC and ST communities to enhance their capacity to cope with the pandemic. This is done by sharing real-time information and appeals with the district and state authorities for urgent action. Conducted on a mobile app by a network of local partners and hundreds of volunteers, the first phase of the survey was conducted from April 16-May 25, 2020.

Factsheet design: How India Lives (www.howindialives.com)