



Delayed and Denied: Injustice in COVID-19 Relief Tamil Nadu Factsheet



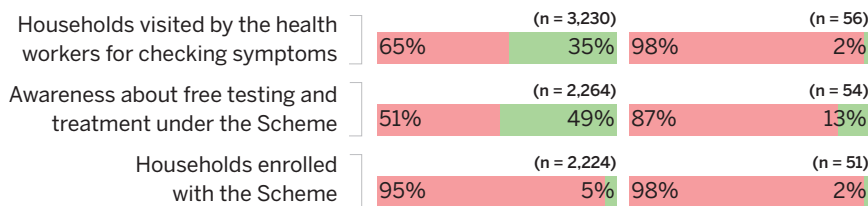
How well are COVID-19 related entitlements announced by the Central Government, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyaan Yojana, reaching the poor and the marginalised? An assessment of the extent of realisation of key entitlements of the relief package across 25,032 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe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



Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

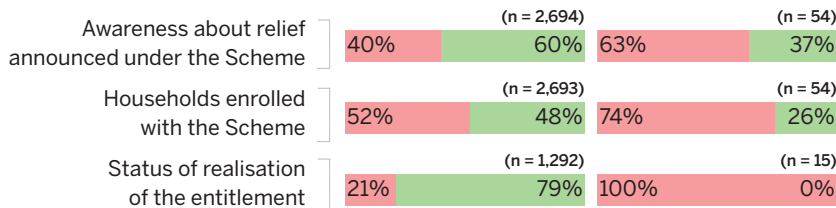
SC respondents **ST respondents**

Ayushman Bharat: Free testing and treatment for COVID19



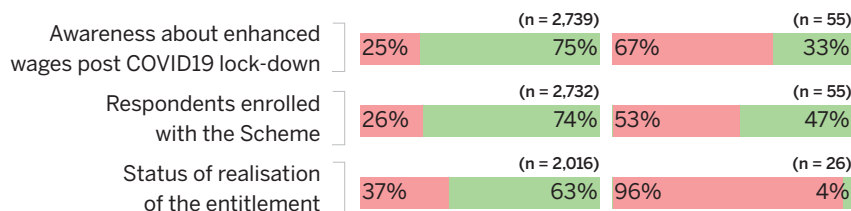
The scheme provides Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover to the poor, especially those determined by the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. The assessment shows low visitations by healthcare workers in SC habitations, poor awareness about the provisions of free testing and treatment for COVID19 offered under the scheme. The scheme coverage was found to be almost absent among the SCs, thereby increasing the vulnerability to disease and financial burden.

Ujjwala Yojana: Free gas cylinders for 3-months



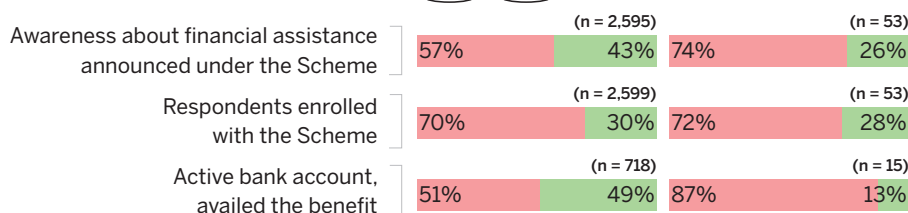
The scheme was launched in 2016 for women of Below Poverty Line families, to safeguard their health by providing them with clean cooking fuel (LPG). The assessment shows inadequate awareness about the entitlement and low enrolment. The worryingly low scheme coverage among the SC and ST communities invariably excluded them from the entitlement, rendering the Scheme meaningless for the communities.

MGNREGS: Enhanced wages



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 shows higher awareness, enrolment and realisation of the entitlement among the SCs, but a poor coverage among the STs, even though a very small number of the ST households responded to the queries.

Jan Dhan Yojana: Ex-gratia amount of Rs. 500 for women

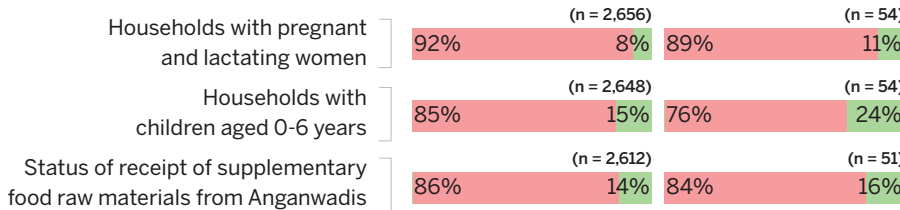


The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure financial inclusion of the poor, with zero-balance bank accounts. In COVID, direct transfer of Rs 500 was announced for women account holders. The assessment shows lack of awareness among most SC and ST households, followed by low levels of enrolment and entitlement realisation. The poor coverage led to the default-exclusion of the SC and ST women from a critical source of social assistance in the pandemic.

Percentage of respondents who replied ■ No ■ Yes

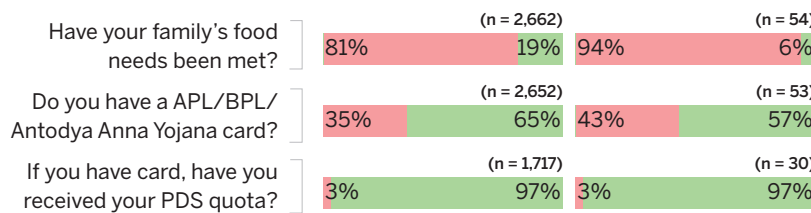
SC respondents ST respondents

ICDS: Home delivery of raw material



The COVID-19 Relief Package provided for delivery of raw supplementary food material by Anganwadi workers to households with pregnant / lactating women and children aged 0-6 years. The overall picture is bleak, with awareness, enrolment and realisation being highly inadequate. The denial of nutrition assistance in the pandemic increases health-related risks, which are higher for the SCs and STs that report high rate of malnutrition related mortality owing to poor income levels.

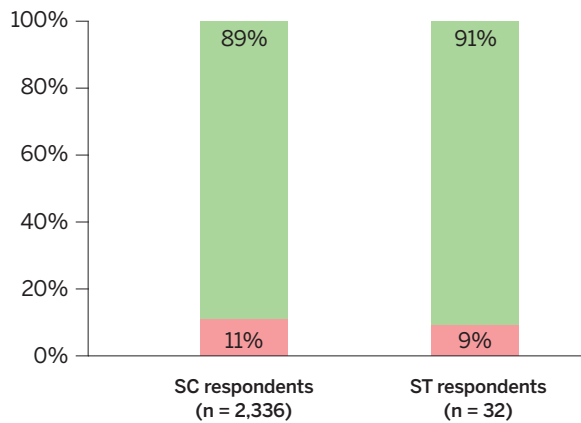
Public Distribution Scheme: Additional /free food-grains



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 satisfactory scheme coverage has been observed with a positive degree of realisation of full quota of food grains. However, quality of ration was reportedly poor for many households, and food requirements were inadequately met.

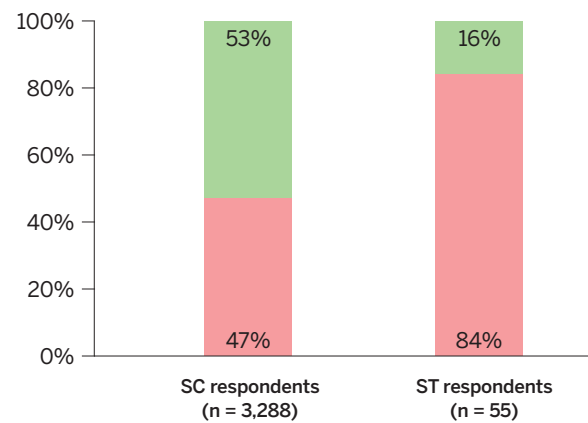
How much of your PDS quota have you received?

■ 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)