



JHEP FOUNDATION (INDIA)

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# NGO GLOBAL DIALOGUE - IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON VULNERABLE GROUPS (PEOPLE AND OTHER LIVING BEINGS IN OUR SHARED ENVIRONMENT)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

## 2 ABOUT JHEP FOUNDATION

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- Jhep Foundation is a Public Charitable Trust, founded in 2019 with 3 primary objectives as listed below. Jhep has also been involved in Covid-19 relief work since April 2019.
  1. Education
    - For rural/tribal middle school and high school students: trade skills, life skills, digital literacy, health/nutrition, awareness, gender-based issues awareness, etc.
  2. Empowerment
    - For women: trade skills, life skills, basic literacy, financial literacy, digital literacy, gender awareness and gender equality, domestic abuse/violence awareness – all with a focus on building capacity toward sustainable living
  3. Environment
    - Water resource planning/management; Soil fertility; Chemical free farming – related capacity building of local farmers

# 3 TYPES OF COVID-19 RELIEF PROJECTS BY JHEP

9/21/2021





## 4 COVID-19 IMPACT ON EDUCATION

### DIGITAL DIVIDE, LEARNING INEQUALITY, NO ACCESS TO MID-DAY MEALS, NO ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE/EDUCATION

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- According to UNESCO, 63 million teachers were affected in 165 countries; 1.3 billion learners around the world (320 million in India alone) were not able to attend schools or universities.
- While 24% Indians own a smartphone, only 11% of households possess any form of computer and just 24% of Indian households have an internet facility. Only 8% of households with children in the 5-24 year age group have both a computer and an internet connection.
- Only 4.4% of households in rural India have a computer vs. 23.4% in urban India; only 15% of households in rural India have an internet facility vs. 42% in urban India.
- Due to school closures, the school feeding programme could no longer provide the much-needed free lunch to 115.9 million children who are enrolled under the scheme.
- In 2019, over 30 million children (3-6 years) benefited from Anganwadi Centers through Integrated Child Development Centers, all of which have been closed down since early 2020.

## 5 COVID-19 IMPACT ON EDUCATION

### ONLINE EDUCATION REINFORCING DIGITAL DIVIDE AND LEARNING INEQUALITY

Sr No	State	Rural		Urban	
		Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)	Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.5	10.4	11.6	29.5
2	Assam	3.7	12.1	30.8	46.9
3	Bihar	2.7	12.5	20.0	38.6
4	Chhattisgarh	3.2	10.6	22.0	34.6
5	Delhi	NA	NA	34.7	55.8
6	Gujarat	4.4	21.1	20.1	49.1
7	Haryana	5.9	37.1	29.5	55.5
8	Himachal Pradesh	10.5	48.6	28.3	70.6
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3.5	28.7	16.0	57.7
10	Jharkhand	1.3	11.9	15.6	40.2
11	Karnataka	2.0	8.3	22.9	33.5
12	Kerala	20.1	46.9	27.5	56.4
13	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	9.7	17.2	35.4
14	Maharashtra	3.3	18.5	27.4	52.0
15	Odisha	1.8	5.8	17.2	31.2
16	Punjab	9.4	39.4	26.7	57.1
17	Rajasthan	6.4	18.5	26.6	49.9
18	Tamilnadu	11.6	14.4	24.7	24.8
19	Telangana	1.6	9.9	17.6	41.9
20	Uttarakhand	7.0	35.2	32.5	64.3
21	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	11.6	22.3	41.0
22	West Bengal	3.3	7.9	23.0	36.0

## 6 COVID-19 IMPACT ON EDUCATION ONLINE TEACHING CHALLENGES AND SCHOOL RE-OPENING BARRIERS

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- Only 17% teachers in government schools vs. 44% in private schools reported that they were trained to conduct online classes.
- India already faces a shortage of qualified teachers. About 15% teachers in government schools, 10% in government aided schools, 25% in private unaided schools and 58% in other school categories did not have any professional qualifications.
- Along with online classes, teachers are also burdened with COVID duty impacting their health.
- Clean and proper WASH facilities are a key prerequisite for schools to reopen safely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, only 52 per cent schools have overall WASH facilities, i.e., drinking water, functional toilets and hand wash facility altogether; only 13 per cent schools in India are compliant to all RTE norms.

## 7 COVID-19 IMPACT ON GIRLS, TRANSGENDER CHILDREN AND WOMEN

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- The school closures due to the COVID-19 could lead to a million more girls and transgender children dropping out before they complete their education. This particularly holds true for children living in poverty, those with a disability or the ones living in rural isolated places.
- Economic hardships - financial and opportunity costs of educating girls over boys.
- India already has the largest number of child brides in the world; child marriages have increased by almost 30% during the pandemic.
- School closures mean that children, particularly girls, experiencing violence have fewer opportunities to seek support and access services.
- Only 33% women have access to internet vs. 67% for men in urban area, but only 28% women vs. 72% men have access to internet in rural India – directly impacting access to education, employment, AND even access to vaccination.

## 8 COVID-19 IMPACT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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- COVID-19 has also disrupted contraceptive supply chains. The ban on the export of progesterone and the halt in production of IUDs in India has further restricted women's already limited access to birth control, which means a likely rise in unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in post-pandemic months.
- The need for social distancing has also temporarily disrupted the functioning of self-help groups (SHGs) that have been credited with improving women's well-being and empowerment.
- Women make up a significant proportion of all healthcare workers and more than 80% of nurses and midwives – thus disproportionately exposed to Covid-19 health risks.



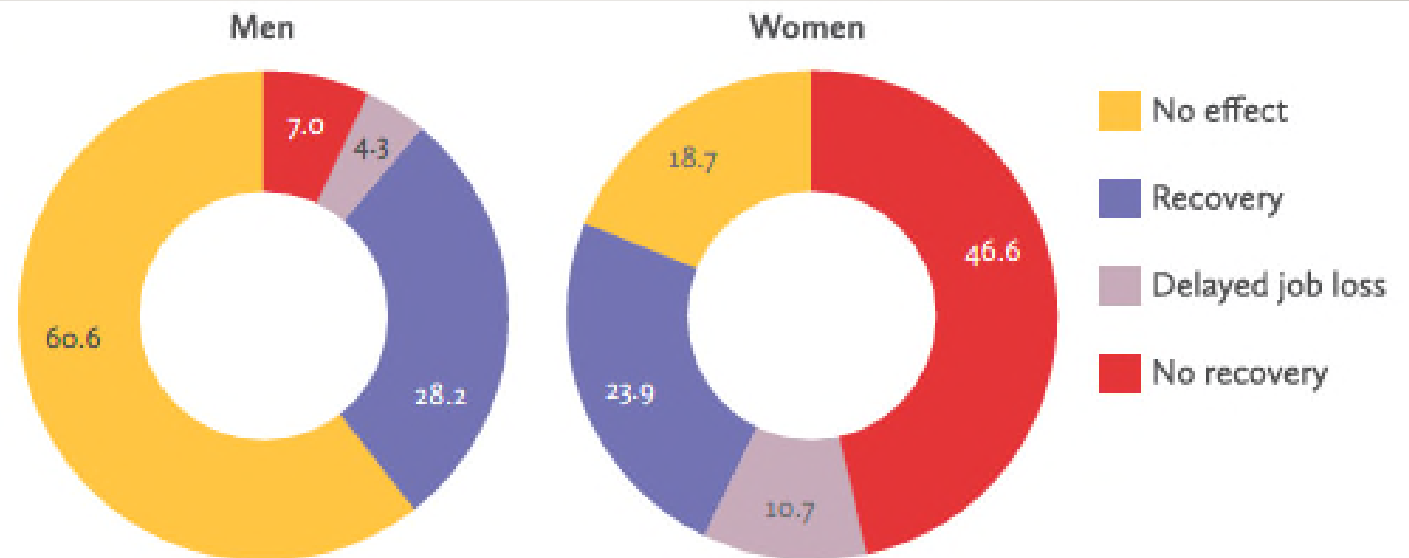
## 9 COVID-19 IMPACT ON WOMEN – RISE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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- As COVID-19 lockdowns trapped women at home with their abusers, domestic violence rates spiked throughout the world. In India, reports of domestic violence, child marriage, cyber violence and trafficking of women and girls increased as much as 2.5 to 3 times during the pandemic.
- Some women's organizations reported that in the first 4 phases of the lockdown, they received more reports of domestic violence than they had in the last 10 years for a similar period of time.
- Others indicated that many women were unable to report the violence, as they had less privacy and means to access help.

# 10 COVID-19 IMPACT ON WOMEN – LOST EMPLOYMENT

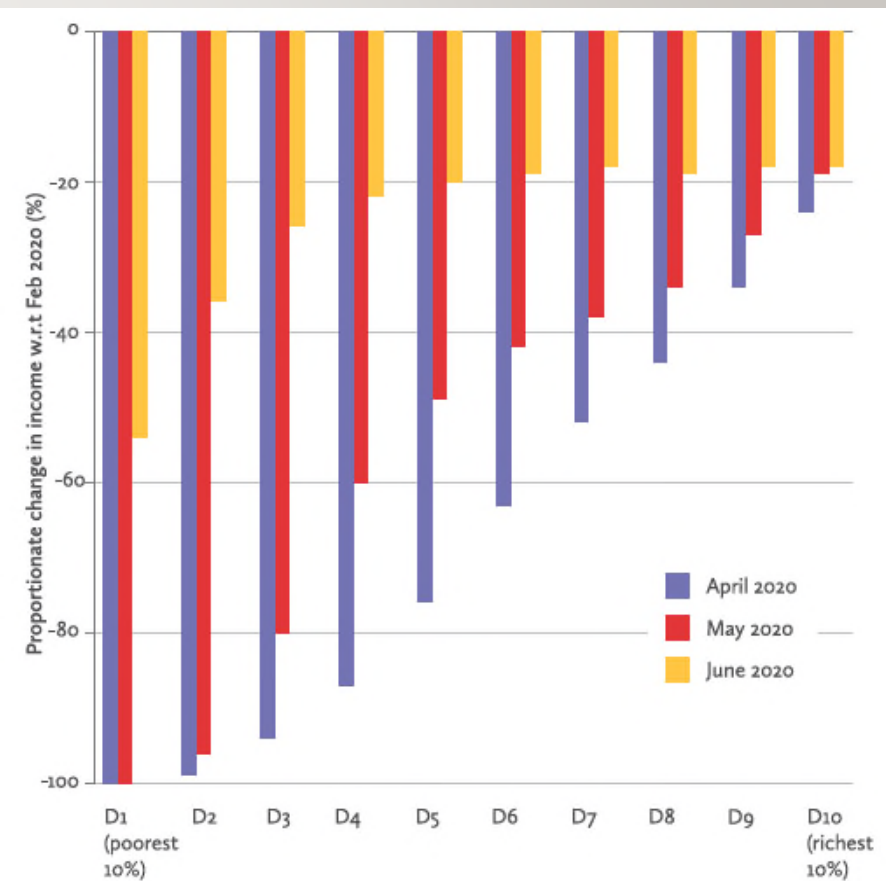
- Women and younger workers were disproportionately affected and many could not return to work even by the end of the year



Sources and notes: Authors' calculations based on CMIE-CPHS. Data is for the December 2019-April 2020-December 2020 panel. No effect: did not lose work during lockdown or after. Recovery: lost work during lockdown and recovered by Dec. Delayed job loss: did not lose work during lockdown but lost it by Dec. No recovery: lost work during lockdown and did not recover by Dec.

## || COVID-19 IMPACT ON POOR – LOSS OF WORK

- Poorer households were worse affected, and poverty and inequality has increased



Sources and notes: Authors' calculations based on CMIE-CPHS. The graphs plot the proportionate change in per capita income from an event study regression model, for each income decile. The event study estimates measure the impact of the pandemic and the containment measures on the monthly per-capita household income, controlling for various household characteristics. The change in monthly incomes is reported as compared to incomes in February 2020. Households are classified into income deciles in each month separately based on their per capita incomes in that month. See [Appendix Section 2](#) for the event study model as well as seasonality calculations.

## 12 SOURCES

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