

## **Effects of Lockdown on Below Poverty Level People in Vijayawada**

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### **ABSTRACT :**

**Background:** Poverty is an ever increasing problem in the developing countries . Most of the people below poverty lead a very complicated life due to the lack of money during the lockdown period. Understanding the lockdown effects of the below poverty level people may aid in identifying the problems prevailing in the society and finding solutions to it. The aim of the current study is to explore the lockdown effects of below poverty level people living in vijayawada, Andhrapradesh.

**Methods:** This is a self-structured questionnaire consisting of 10 questions covering socio-economic challenges, attitude and awareness of the challenges faced by the people below poverty level during the lockdown in 2020. The study was conducted in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Printed questionnaires are supplied among them through social workers for 100 people. The responses are collected and analysed using SPSS statistical tools for descriptive statistics.

**Results:** About 50% of the male population and 42% of the female population participated in the survey. The findings suggest that around fifty percent of the population reported that they are aware of the problems faced during the lockdown period and also reported lockdown has a high impact in meeting their financial need to be the major problem.

**Conclusion:** The current survey was done to analyse the awareness of problems faced by people below poverty level. We can conclude that they are aware of the problem but they lack in managing and seeking help.

**Key words:** Poverty; COVID-19 lockdown; daily life; socio-economic challenge; awareness.

## INTRODUCTION:

The pandemic is an epidemic disease that spreads across countries affecting a large number of populations. In order to save people from this pandemic chain due to COVID-19, which has a higher rate of widespread through contaminated droplets from person to person, the government took an initiating step - "Lockdown". (Bird and Herman, 2016; Hartman, 2016) (Kapoor and Ahluwalia, 2015) Lockdown is an emergency measure taken by the government which stops entering (or) leaving a restricted area during any pandemic outbreak. When we talk about the need of lockdown, it is an emergency step taken by the government during the pandemic, since it is believed to stop the spread of chain. (Krishna, 2006) (Mamun and Ullah, 2020) (Rao *et al.*, 2009; Gupta *et al.*, 2020). The more the case fatality rate is, the more risk of dying from coronavirus that spreads more rapidly. There are people who are asymptomatic and show no symptoms yet they can be the carriers of the infection and affect the healthy person. (Raudenbush, 2004) (Website, no date a) This social distancing, also a major measure taken during any pandemic outbreak, because it limits the contact one with others. Though these were the major steps to be taken, yet it shows a very bad impact on the people, especially on the daily labour and people below the poverty line. (Sood *et al.*, 2014) (Stamp, 2009) These people go from place to place from native in search of labour work, those people were not allowed as the government issues complete lockdown across the country. (Website, no date b) Their works have been stopped, some were removed from the jobs as the owner cannot pay their salary off. They have no saved money and their income was completely shut down. Though they have few plans from the government yet it's difficult for them as we all know besides food there are also many medical emergencies, house rents and many other essentials needs. Our team has rich experience in research and we have collaborated with numerous authors over various topics in the past decade (Ariga *et al.*, 2018; Basha, Ganapathy and Venugopalan, 2018; Hannah *et al.*, 2018; Hussain *et al.*, 2018; Jeevanandan and Govindaraju, 2018; Kannan and Venugopalan, 2018; Kumar and Antony, 2018; Manohar and Sharma, 2018;

Menon *et al.*, 2018; Nandakumar and Nasim, 2018; Nandhini, Babu and Mohanraj, 2018; Ravinthar and Jayalakshmi, 2018; Seppan, Muhammed, Mohanraj, Lakshmanan, Premavathy, Muthu, WungmarongShimray, *et al.*, 2018; Teja, Ramesh and Priya, 2018; Duraisamy *et al.*, 2019; Gheena and Ezhilarasan, 2019; Hema Shree *et al.*, 2019; Rajakeerthi and Ms, 2019; Rajendran *et al.*, 2019; Sekaret *et al.*, 2019; Sharma *et al.*, 2019; Siddique *et al.*, 2019; Janani, Palanivelu and Sandhya, 2020; Johnson *et al.*, 2020; Jose, Ajitha and Subbaiyan, 2020). The aim of the study is to bring awareness about the challenges faced by below poverty level people and to seek help from the government and again donations.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

This is a survey conducted using a self-structured questionnaire consisting of 10 questions covering socio-economic challenges, attitude and awareness of the challenges faced by the people below poverty level during the lockdown in the year 2020. The study was approved by the institutional review board. The study was conducted in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh among them through printed questionnaires and supplied among them through social workers for 100 people. The similar affirmative study was done in 2019, and again by Pavel Net in 2019. Convenient sampling method is used for sample selection. The exclusion of the study will be mentally retarded people, illiterate to native language. The responses collected are tabulated in excel sheets and results are analysed statistically for descriptive statistics and association using Chi Square analysis in SPSS software. The knowledge, perception will be the output variables of the study.

## **RESULTS:**

From the statistically analysed data, the results suggest that they are aware of the problem faced by them during lockdown and trying to get help serving organisations. The survey was conducted among heterogeneous populations. 28% belongs to the 20-25 years group, 28% belongs to the 26-30 years group, 26% belongs to the 31-35 years group, 18% belongs to the 36-40 years group (Figure 1). 50% of the male population and 42% of the female population (Figure 2). 94% of the population are aware of the coronavirus (Figure 3). 54% of males were more aware than females. chi-square test - p value = 0.676 ( $>0.05$ ), hence not statistically significant (Figure 4).

54% of the population are aware of the precautions taken for coronavirus (Figure 5). 36% of females were more aware of the precautions than males. (chi-square test - p value = 0.570 ( $>0.05$ ), hence not statistically significant) (Figure 6). 54% are aware of the symptoms of coronavirus (Figure 7). 52% of the population manage their income by saving monthly expenses during lockdown (Figure 8). 30% of females were more aware of the precautions than males. (chi-square test - p value = 0.963 ( $>0.05$ ), hence not statistically significant (Figure 9). 78% of the participants are aware of the psychological effects due to lockdown (Figure 10). 46% of the females were more aware of psychological effects due to lockdown than males. (chi-square test - p value = 0.285 ( $>0.05$ ), hence not statistically significant. (Figure 11). 54% of the participants

agreed poor income is the major problem(Figure 12). 34% of females were aware of problems during lockdown than males. (chi-square test - p value = 0.443 ( $>0.05$ ), hence not statistically significant)(Figure 13). 80% of the people get help from social coworkers (Figure 14). 46% of the population face sanitary problems in their area (Figure 15).

## DISCUSSION:

Our institution is passionate about high quality evidence based research and has excelled in various fields ( (Pc, Marimuthu and Devadoss, 2018; Ramesh *et al.*, 2018; VijayashreePriyadharsini, SmilineGirija and Paramasivam, 2018; Ezhilarasan, Apoorva and Ashok Vardhan, 2019;Ramadura*et al.*, 2019; Sridharan *et al.*, 2019;VijayashreePriyadharsini, 2019; Chandrasekar *et al.*, 2020; Mathew *et al.*, 2020; R *et al.*, 2020; Samuel, 2021)

Encouraging people who have volunteered to provide facilities such as pure water, foods filled with nutrients, living places to poor people and who're conducting charity services to develop the lives of them, by offering special rewards and admiring them in various ways would be a good way to increase the number of voluntary workers.

The techniques used by the poor people to save money during the lockdown are income shaping, savings Bank routing. Even in the affirmative study there were comparatively the same techniques. 56% of the population in a study conducted by Taylor into 2017 are aware of Corona Virus whereas 64% of our population are aware of it.(Taylor, 2017) In our Study 40% of them had lack of food which is a major problem when compared to the fit me to study done by Antoiquiekoning was 42 %. The hunger deaths increase day by day, in a previous study done by Abraham Elizahi in 2015, also agreed with the same statement. To protect our country from COVID-19, governments have forced the extraordinary lockdown regardless of its staggering financial effects(Gupta *et al.*, 2020). Instead, it is between saving lives from COVID-19 versus saving lives from a massive increase in poverty and hunger globally as a result of the great lockdown, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable.(Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee, 2006) Rather, it is between sparing lives from COVID-19 as opposed to sparing lives from a huge increment in people because of the extraordinary lockdown, particularly among the people below poverty level.(Gupta *et al.*, 2020)(Nolan and Whelan, 2011).Previously our team had conducted numerous clinical trials (Thejeswar and Thenmozhi, 2015; Krishna and Babu, 2016; Subashri and Thenmozhi, 2016; Nandhini *et al.*, 2018; Seppan, Muhammed, Mohanraj, Lakshmanan, Premavathy, Muthu, WungpamShimray, *et al.*, 2018; Sekaret *et al.*, 2019; Johnson *et al.*, 2020) and lab animal studies (Samuel and Thenmozhi, 2015; Sriram, Yuvaraj and Others, 2015; Keerthana and Thenmozhi, 2016; Menon and Thenmozhi, 2016; Pratha and Thenmozhi, 2016) and in vitro studies (Choudhari and Thenmozhi, 2016; Hafeez and Others, 2016; Kannan and Thenmozhi, 2016) over the past 5 years. Now we are focusing on epidemiological surveys. The idea for this survey stemmed from the current interest in our community .

The limitations of the study will be a locked down, limited population, heterogeneous population and the survey fatigue .The future scope of the study will be the reduced burden among poverty people and brings awareness on managing the problems.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Within the limitation of the study the findings suggest that around fifty percent of the population reported that they are aware of the problems faced during the lockdown period and also reported lock down has a high impact in meeting their financial need to be the major problem. The current survey was done to analyse the awareness of problems faced by people below poverty level. We can conclude that they are aware of the problem but they lack in managing and seeking help.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

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## **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION :**

Lasya.G - Study design,datacollection,drafting manuscript

Dr.LavanyaPrathap- Revising manuscript,final approval of manuscript

Preetha S - Collection reviews

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil**

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**Table 1 - List of Figure Titles**

Figure Number	Title
Figure 1	Age distribution
Figure 2	Gender distribution
Figure 3	Awareness of coronavirus
Figure 4	Association between gender and awareness of coronavirus
Figure 5	Awareness of precautions that should be taken for covid-19
Figure 6	Association between gender and precautions for coronavirus
Figure 7	Awareness of symptoms of coronavirus
Figure 8	Management of income during lockdown
Figure 9	Association between gender and management of income during lockdown
Figure 10	Awareness of psychological effects due to lockdown
Figure 11	Association gender and psychological effects due to lockdown
Figure 12	Awareness of major problems during the lockdown
Figure 13	Association gender and awareness of major problems during lockdown
Figure 14	Help from the social workers
Figure 15	Sanitary problems in their area

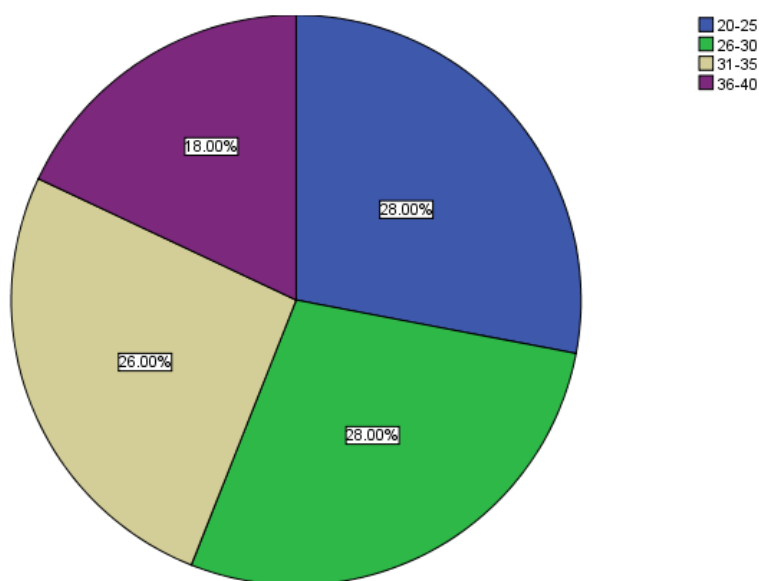


Figure 1: Pie chart represents the percentage of age distribution of participants. 28% are 20-25 years old (blue), 28% of 26-30 years old (green), 26% of 31-35 years old (yellow) and 18% of 36-40 years old (purple) had participated in the survey. Majority of the participants were 20-30 years old people who had taken this survey. (blue and green).

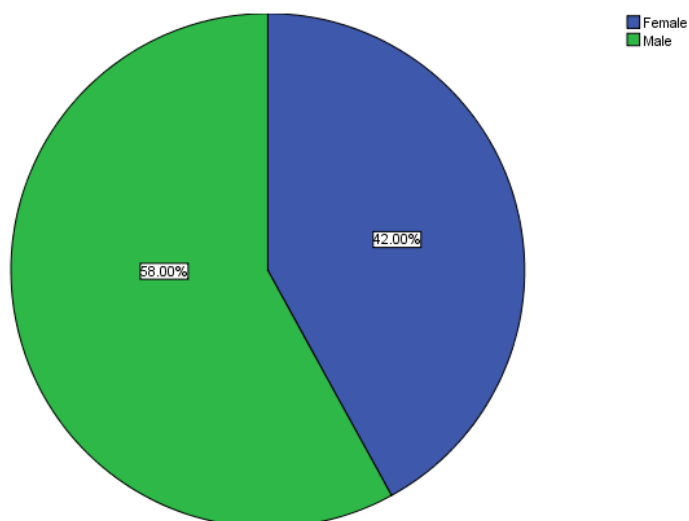


Figure 2 : Pie chart represents the percentage of gender distribution of participants. 58% of males (green) and 42% of females (blue) had participated in this survey. Majority of the males participated in the survey (green).

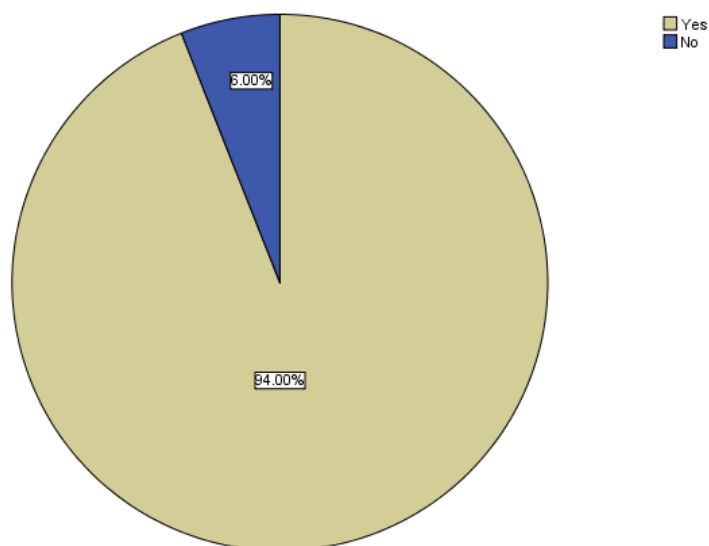


Figure 3: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses on coronavirus awareness. 94% are aware of coronavirus (yellow) and 6% are not aware of it (blue). Majority 96% of respondents were aware of it.

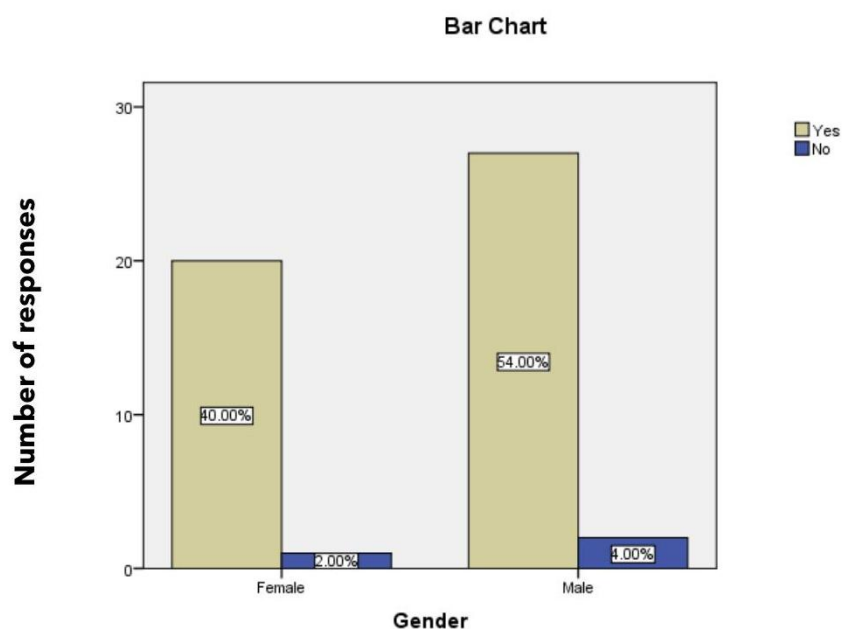


Figure 4: Bar graph represents the association of responses between gender and awareness of coronavirus. X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents number of participants of which yellow indicates yes and blue indicates no. Majority 54% of males were more aware than females. However the difference is statistically not significant, chi-square test - p value = 0.676 ( $p > 0.05$ ), hence statistically not significant).

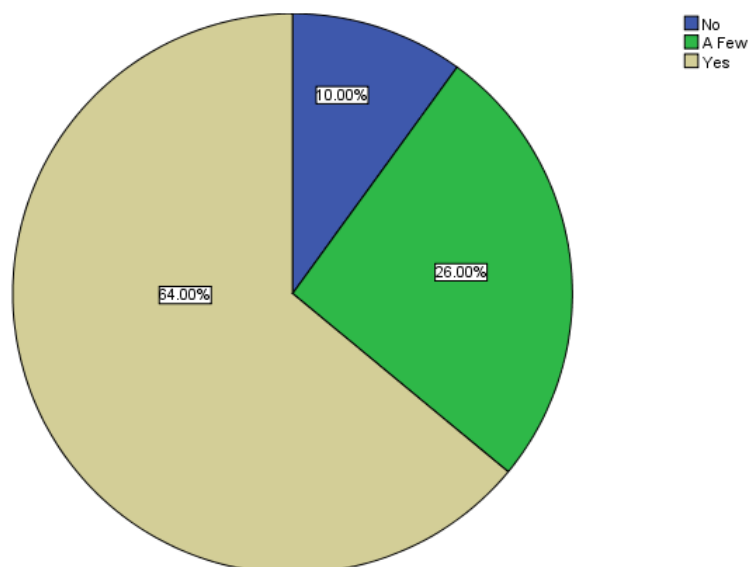


Figure 5 : Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on awareness of precautions that should be taken for covid-19. 54 % of the participants are aware of the precautions (yellow), 26% are aware of a few precautions(green) and 10 % are not aware of it (blue). Majority 54% are aware of the precautions that are taken for covid-19 (yellow).

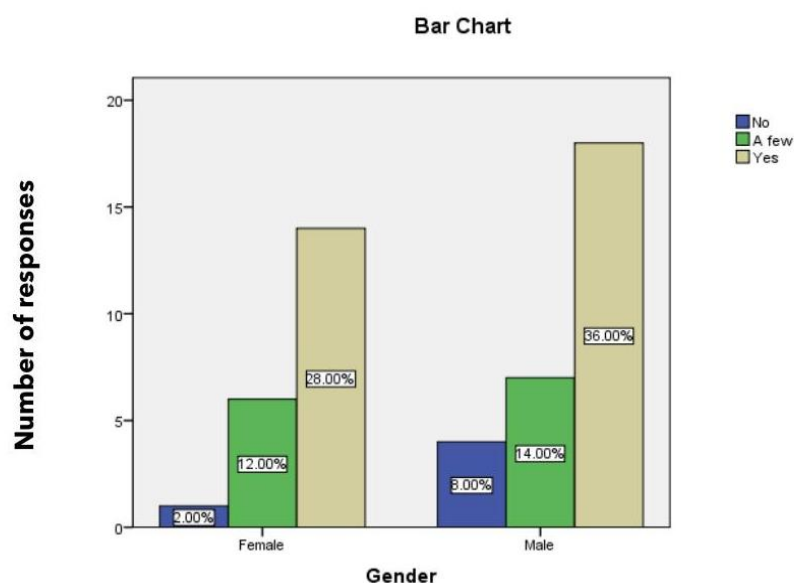


Figure 6: Bar graph represents the association of responses between gender and awareness of precautions for coronavirus. X- axis represents gender and Y-axis represents number of participants of which yellow indicates yes, green indicates a few and blue indicates no. Majority 36% of females were more aware of the precautions than males. However the difference is

statistically not significant, chi-square test - p value = 0.570 ( $p > 0.05$ ).

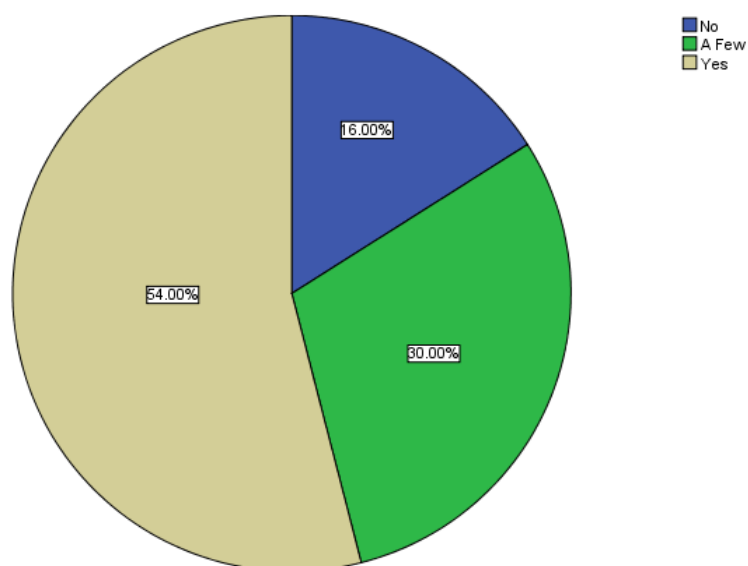


Figure 7: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on awareness of symptoms of coronavirus. 54 % of the participants are aware of the symptoms of coronavirus(yellow), 30% are aware of a few precautions(green) and 16 % are not aware of it (blue). Majority 54% are aware of the symptoms of coronavirus (yellow).

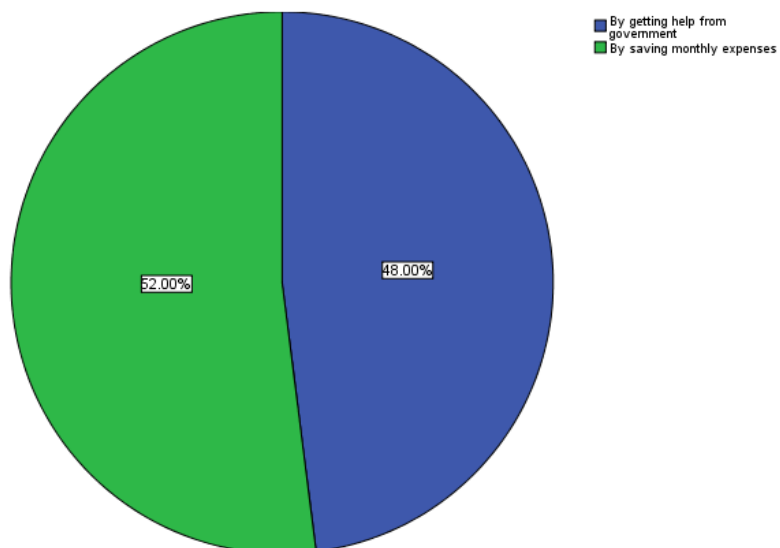


Figure 8: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses on management of income during lockdown . 48 % of the participants manage income by getting help from the government (blue) and 52% by saving monthly expenses ( green). Majority 52% manage by saving monthly expenses (green).

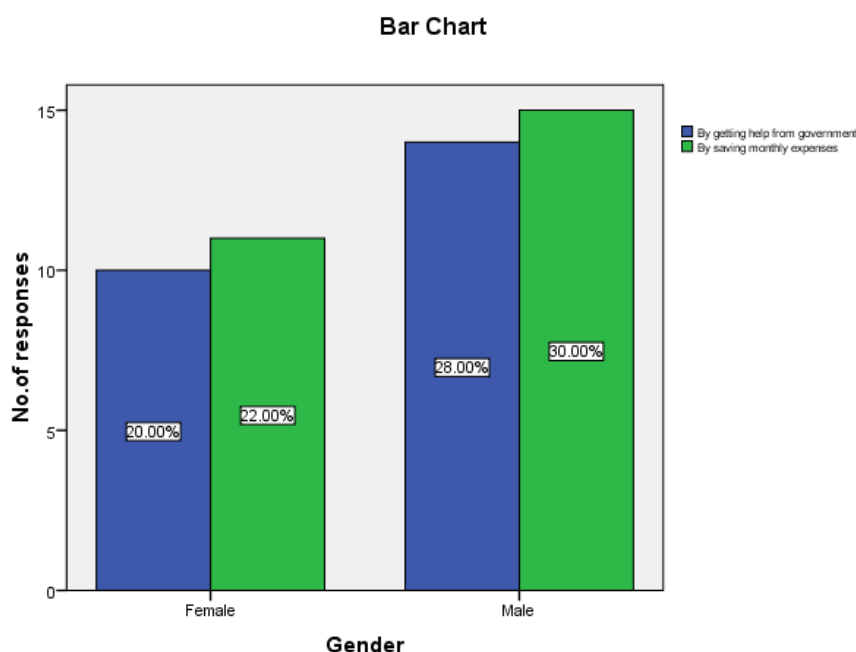


Figure 9: Bar graph represents the association of responses between gender and management of income during lockdown. X- axis represents gender and Y-axis represents number of participants of which blue indicates by getting help from the government and green indicates by saving monthly expenses. Majority 30% of females were more aware of the management of income during lockdown than males. However the difference is statistically not significant, Chi-square test - p value = 0.963 ( $>0.05$ ) .

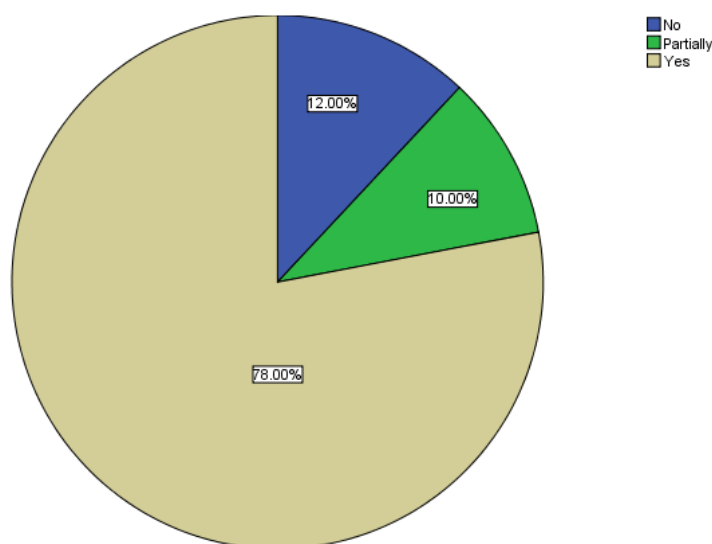


Figure 10: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on awareness of psychological effects due to lockdown . 78 % of the participants are aware of the psychological effects due to lockdown(yellow), 12% are aware of a few precautions(green) and 12 % are not

aware of it (blue). Majority 78% are aware of the symptoms of coronavirus (yellow).

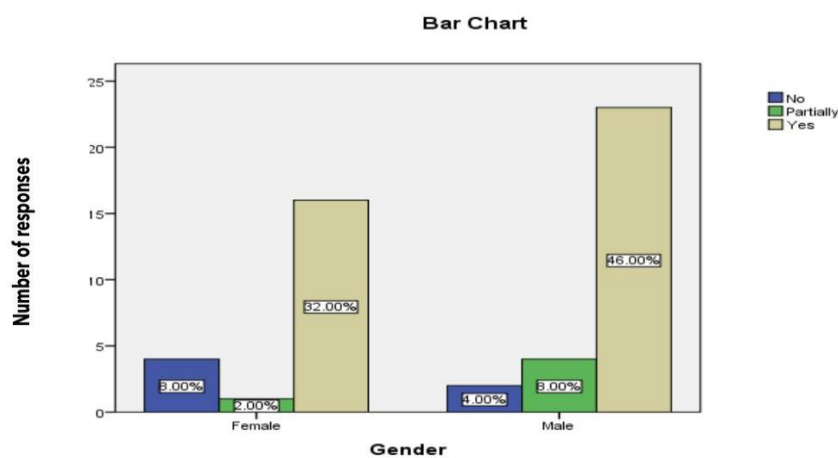


Figure 11: Bar graph represents the association of responses between gender and psychological effects due to lockdown. X- axis represents gender and Y-axis represents number of participants of which yellow indicates yes, blue indicates no and green indicates partially. Majority 46% of the females were more aware of psychological effects due to lockdown than males. However the difference is statistically not significant ,chi-square test - p value = 0.285 ( $>0.05$ ).

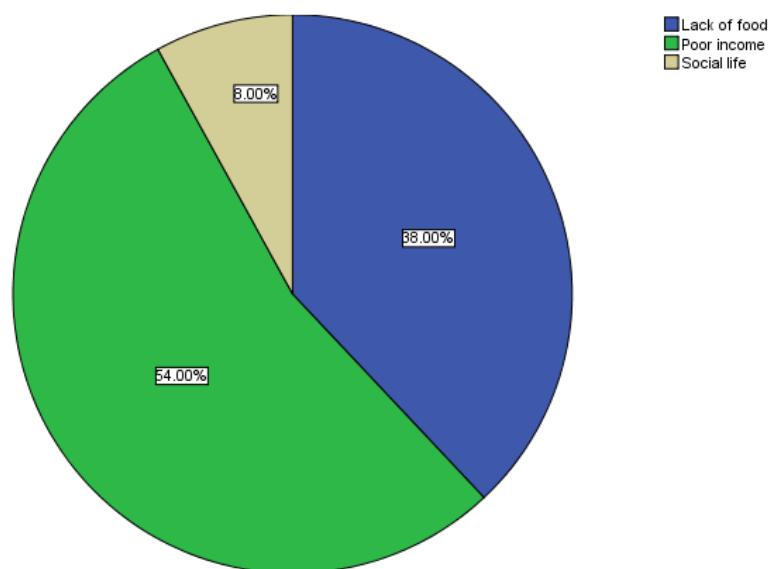


Figure 12 : Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on awareness of major problems during the lockdown. 54 % of the participants agreed poor income is the major problem(green), 38% agreed that lack of food is the major problem(blue) and 8% agreed that social life is the major problem(yellow) . Majority 54%of the participants agreed poor income is the major problem(green).



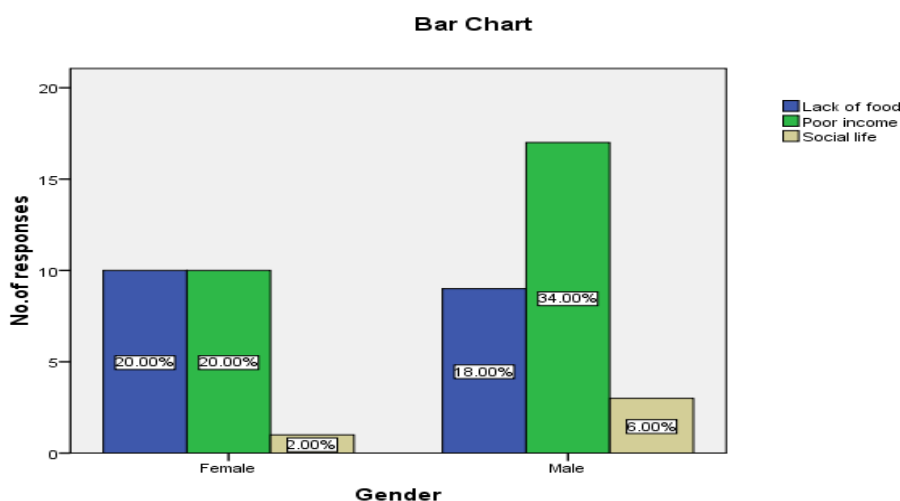


Figure 13: Bar graph represents the association of responses between gender and awareness of major problems during lockdown . X- axis represents gender and Y-axis represents number of participants of which blue indicates lack of food, green indicates poor income and yellow indicates social life. Majority 34% major problems during lockdown than males. However the difference is statistically not significant, chi-square test - p value = 0.443 ( $p > 0.05$ ).

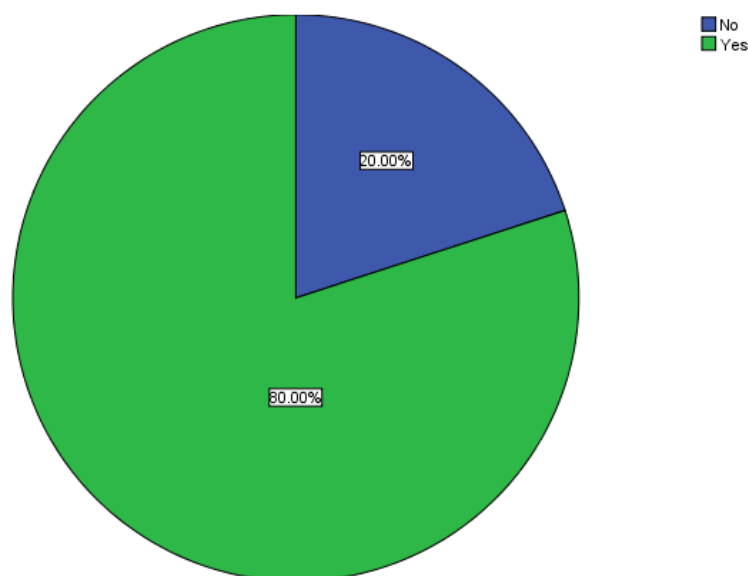


Figure 14: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on getting help from the social workers . 80 % of the participants agreed that they get help from social workers(green), 20% are aware of a few precautions(blue).Majority 80% agreed to get help from social workers(green).

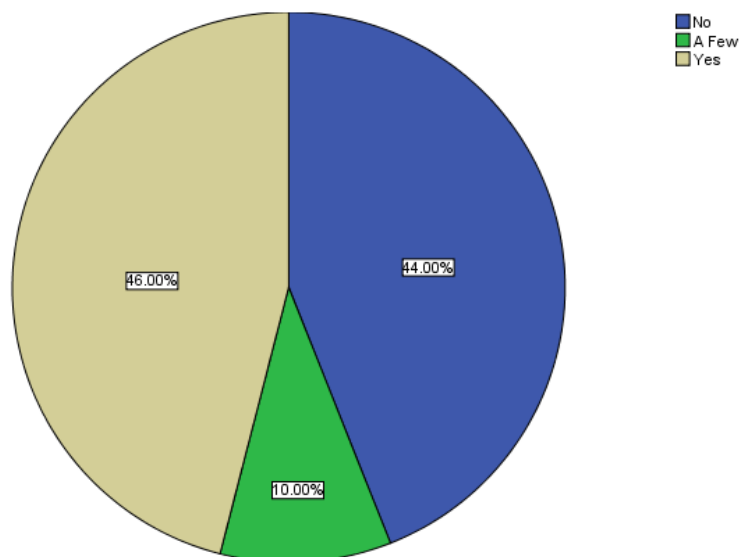


Figure 15: Pie chart represents the percentage of responses of participants on facing sanitary problems in their area. 46 % of the participants agreed that they had sanitary problems in their area(yellow),44% disagreed with it (blue) and 10% reported to have a few sanitary problems(green) .Majority 46 % of the participants agreed that they had sanitary problems in their area(yellow).