

# PHONE SURVEY ANALYSIS

## West Bengal Workers in Hyderabad

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### Introduction

After receiving a list of migrant workers from Abhijit Biswas who has been volunteering on ground, we reached out to these workers who we stranded in Telangana due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

To understand their situation, we made calls to 83 individuals and collected data from 68 representatives of the communities which span a total of 1823 individuals of different age groups. The questionnaire was designed to be quick and capture actionable information so that relief (of the relevant kind) could reach them as soon as possible. All the charts in this report are keeping the whole data set as 1823 unless explicitly specified.

### Methodology

The survey was deployed through:

- Volunteers
- For the whole population, not sample
- Logging of status of conversation
- Phone-based means
- Google Forms to record the information

[Here](#) is the link to the Google Form questionnaire.

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Volunteers Mobilisation and Coordination: Benoy and Romila

Data Analysis Team : Sumanth, Benoy, Niranjan and Shramanth

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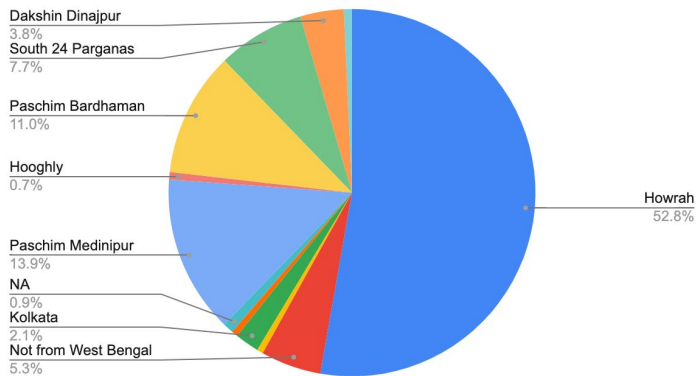
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## Analysis

Preliminary analysis of the data reveals the following.

### Origin and Stranded State

Hometown of the surveyed labourers

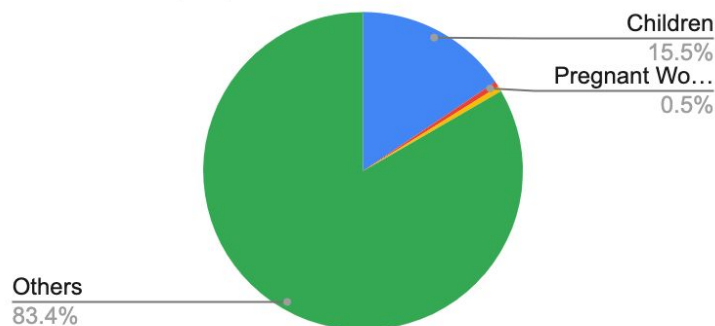


All the people we have surveyed are stranded in Hyderabad except for the few who are travelling back to their villages. 65 of 68 people surveyed confirmed that they have a valid ID proof as well. This may not be the same for the whole community.

### Demographic

#### Age-Wise breakup

Total of 1823 people

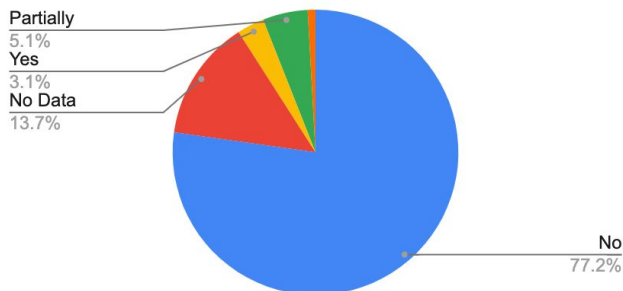


We have confirmation of 283 children, 10 pregnant women and 10 Old People (>55) being part of this whole. The actual numbers may be higher.

## Support from State and Employers

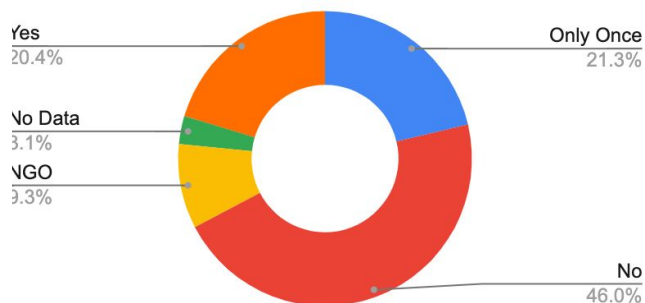
### Wages received in last 60 days as of 17th...

Total of 1823 people



### Ration supply received from government?

Total of 1823 people

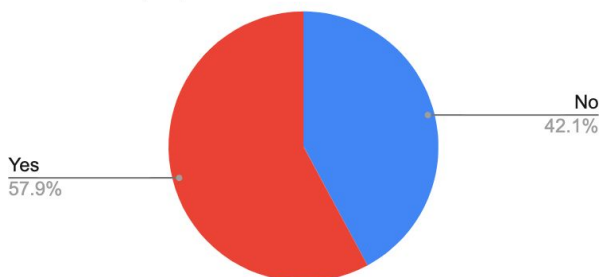


Few of the participants did not disclose clear information for us to draw conclusions and that data has been marked as 'No Data'. Less than 10% of the group shared that they received support from their contractors. Anecdotes of varying degrees of discrimination was evident through the calls. To point out a few, people got from 0 to 1500 INR and 3 to 12 kg from the government's end. A group of 40 workers were given INR 5000 by the contractor for the whole duration of the lockdown.

## Food and Travel

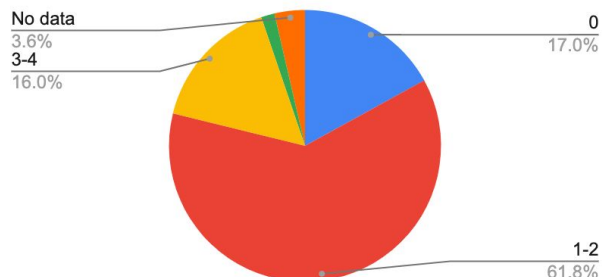
### Registered to travel to your home state

Total of 1823 people



### How many days of supplies do you have?

Total of 1823 people



We have mapped the immediate requirements of food to Abhijit and Romila who are coordinating the distribution of ration. As of 18th May, we have been able to provide ration for 150 people for 10 days; these people are currently still stranded in Banjara Hills.

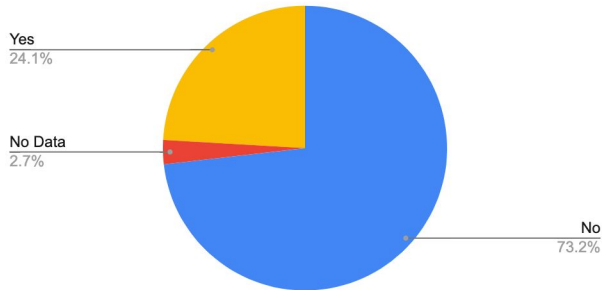
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14 people in the call who have not registered on the portal have shared that they do not want to travel back at this moment.

## Finances

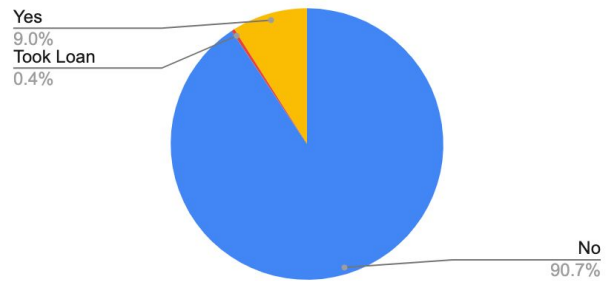
Do you have money for food?

Total of 1823 people



Do you have money for travel?

Total of 1823 people



Significant percentage of the population does not have funds for travel or even food.

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- Funds for additional but essential expenditures such as gas are running out, aggravating the situation

## **Inferences**

- Majority of workers' databases only cover individuals from Howrah, therefore limiting our understanding of the extent of distress.
- Majority of individuals travelled to Telangana in the pursuit of work and livelihood.
- Despite having valid ID proofs, the workers did not receive any ration.
- Around 46% workers have not received any support from the state or from their employers, whereas the other 21% received supply and dry ration only once.
- Significant population even registered for travel (online and/or offline), but were not provided with any transport.
- Wages being withheld, at least 75% workers did not have money for food or travel.
- Waiting time for trains is very high.
- No active follow up after travel portal registration; therefore, they are forced to look at other options..
- Private bus operators are charging INR 3000-4000 per person for transport to West Bengal.

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## Recommendations

1. Collate migrant workers information from all West Bengal districts and perform first information calls.
2. State government to accept any valid ID proof for distribution of ration multiple times.
3. State government to enforce or support employers in payment of wages for the past 60 days until now.
4. State government to enforce or support employers in continued payment of wages.
5. States to ease the travel procedure for greater numbers of registrations by workers.
6. States to ensure sufficient quantity and frequency of modes of transport to send migrant workers to their home location and not just state.
7. States to communicate schedules of travel well in advance to workers and send notifications through sms or through calls about their travel arrangements
8. States to ensure travel arrangements provide free food and travel at all stages should be free of cost.
9. State government to sync with contractors or companies and ensure basic living conditions for the migrant workers like gas connection, shelter and ration.

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## **Considerations**

This information was collected by direct conversations with workers. There was no triangulation of data performed and responses have been considered at face value.

While this may be, the sheer magnitude of responses in terms of living conditions in the stranded state, unavailability of transport, and dire need for food provide merit to the claims made in this report.