

# NOMAD POST

## #RightTheWrong

A newsletter from nomadic and denotified tribes

**Fear of Lockup, and Now Lockdown!  
Struggles of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes during the Lockdown**

Volume 3/2020  
May 6, 2020



**PRAXIS**



# **Fear of Lockup, and Now Lockdown!**

## **Struggles of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes during the Lockdown**

An Analysis Report of Information Collected During the COVID-19 Lockdown  
Between 4 and 21 April, 2020

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

The Denotified and Nomadic Tribes, who constitute close to ten per cent of the Indian population, are faced with challenges unique to them during this lockdown. Given the chronic injustice and stigmatisation that they have faced in the past, they live in fear and away from the view of authorities or administrators who still often discriminate against them. It has now being almost 150 years since these tribes were notified as ‘criminals’ under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, which at one instant deemed generations to come as ‘born criminals’. Independent India 68 repealed the Act years ago, in 1952, only to be replaced by the Habitual Offenders Act. To this day, many of these communities face false allegations and are picked-up by the police for crimes they have not committed. The DNT communities have a disproportionately high number of crime allegations against them based purely on the fact that they are from this community. There are some Semi-Nomadic and Nomadic Tribes that were not deemed as ‘criminal’ by the colonial government but were viewed with suspicion due to their nomadic way of life. Some of these communities still pursue a nomadic way of life, making the lockdown particularly difficult in terms of mobility. Many of them are also cut-off from mainstream village administration, making access to relief tough for them at this time.

The Denotified and Nomadic Tribes are a heterogeneous community and they have been classified on the basis of the occupations they follow, as mentioned below:

- Pastoralists and hunter-gatherer nomads (shepherds and small game hunters like the Dhangars, Kuruba and Pardhi communities)
- Sellers and providers of services and goods to the community (blacksmiths like the Ghisadi, stone dressers like the Wadar, transporters and salt traders like the Banjaras, roof-thatchers like the Chapparband)
- Entertainers (acrobats and jugglers like the Dombaris and Nats, snake charmers like the Madaris), and
- Religious performers and astrologers (Joshis the astrologers, Masanjogis- performers of crematorium rituals, Gosavis the sanyasis)

Today, many of these communities have had to discontinue their traditional occupations either because of passing of laws such as the Wildlife Protection Act, Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act, etc. or it becoming difficult for them to earn a living from their traditional occupation. In such cases some members/communities may adapted their traditional occupations into ones that could provide them support – for instance, communities that were involved in entertainment of royalty adapted to other means that could now provide money – bar dancing, singing at weddings and sex work.

“Once it is established that a certain person belongs to one of these communities the attempt is to keep us where we are” shared a member from one of the Denotified Tribes in

Bihar. “Immediately, every stereotype gets associated with us “prostitution, criminals, immoral, not capable of doing anything else, will come back to same thing later” they add. The community also reacts based on their past experiences – interacting with administration or community dining, both instil fear as they are constantly worried of facing backlash due to their stigmatised identity.

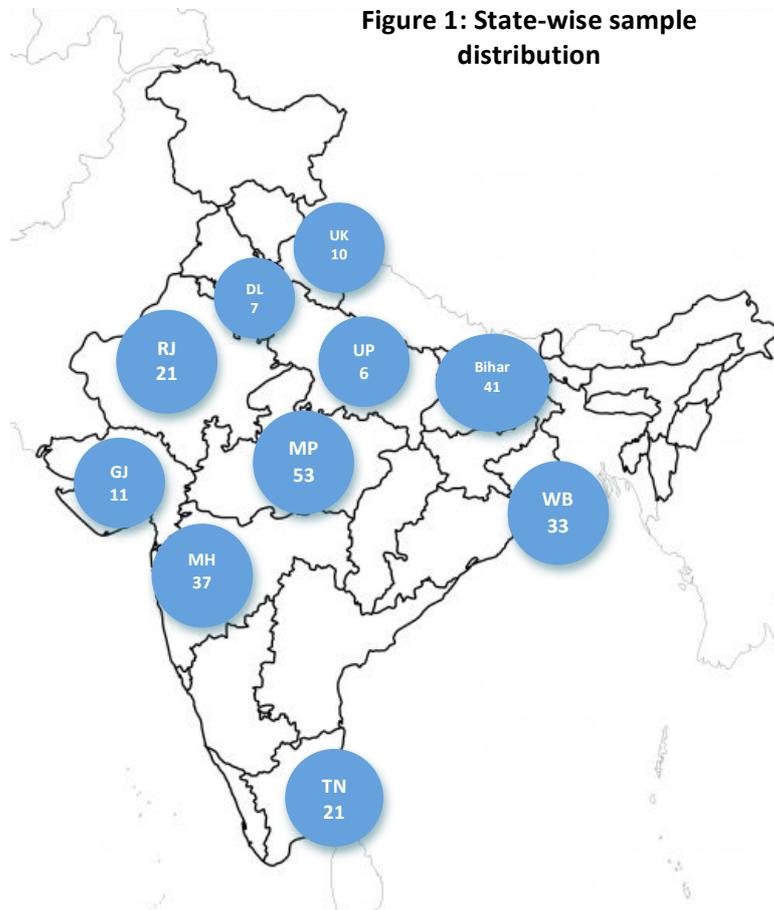
From early March 2020, when Covid-19 reached pandemic status and the media started reporting it, these communities began to experience the beginnings of economic distress. When the national lockdown was announced, these communities faced an exacerbated situation, much worse than some others given that many of them were already struggling with seeking livelihood, being away from their traditional support system and limited or almost no access to relief from the administration which has always been at loggerheads with them formally.

## 1.2 CART Conversation Report

The [National Alliance Group for Denotified, Semi Nomadic and Nomadic Tribes](#), along with [Praxis](#) has formed a Covid Assessment and Response team (CART), which comprises 21 members, including 15 Praxis Research Fellows. (Ashish, Kiran, Aman, Anand, Ajay, Mahadevi, Nandini, Nisha, Twinkle, Roshni, Shakila, Farida, Md. Alam, Megha, Jatin, Tarini, Nirmita, Pradeep, Mayank, Vikas, Dheeraj)

CART continuously has conversations with 240 members of **22 Denotified and Nomadic Tribes across 28 districts in 10 states** as seen in Figure 1. The team converse on diverse aspects: from how they feeling, whether they are accessing food, receiving wages and on loans they have taken during the lockdown period. They were also asked about the challenges they faced while accessing reliefs and entitlements. The information collected from these multiple conversations that happened between March 24 and April 24, 2020 has been analysed, Further, the community fellows have been in touch with and facilitating relief support to members of these communities in Purulia, West Bengal, Morena, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Mumbai, Maharashtra which has in turn, contributed in understanding the unique situation of the community members. Most of these conversations happen over the phone, and

**Figure 1: State-wise sample distribution**

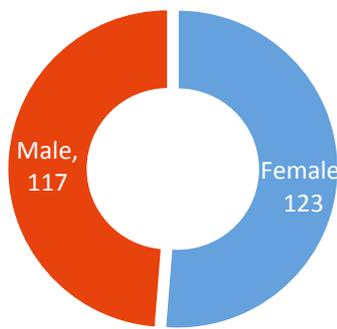


some of these conversations get recorded into a template - which to some extent provide a numerical analysis. However, the preference is to present this as a CART conversation report rather than a research study.

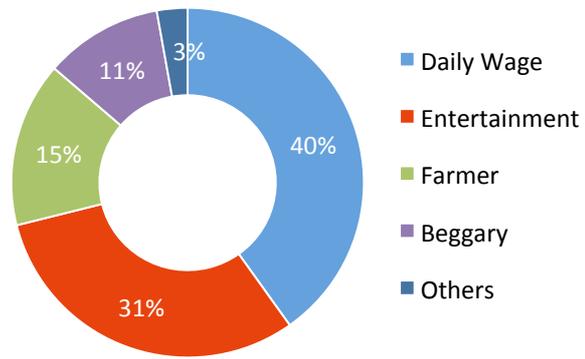
### 1.3 Canvas of DNT workers in conversation with CART

The sample of 240 workers was interviewed randomly over telephone. The workers are from 28 districts across 10 states. The details of the sample are presented in figures 2, 3 and 4 below:

**Figure 2: Gender-wise disaggregation (n=240)**

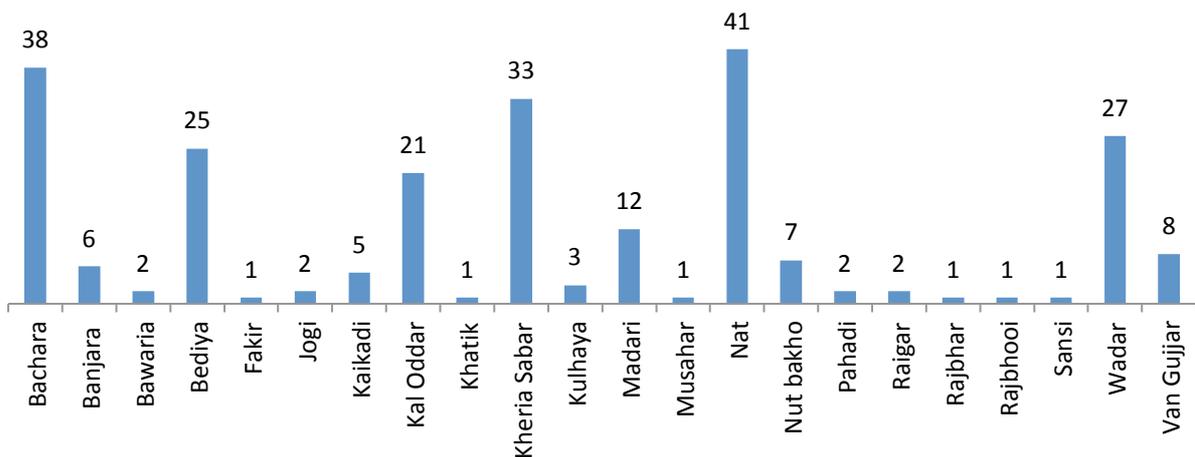


**Figure 3: Distribution across occupations\* (n=240)**



\*Multiple respondents were involved in more than one occupation

**Figure 4: Distribution across communities (n=240)**



## 2. Key Common Problems

### 2.1 Accessing Food

During the days since the beginning of the lockdown, the workers have been experiencing diverse patterns in terms of their access to food. A number of them have faced change in food habits- including the kind of food that eat to the food timings to who all they eat with. However, what probably CART found the most important is to find whether they had regular access to food. Barring a few exception, most families

<b>Out of 240 families, 169 families faced the following trend over 40 days of the lockdown</b>			
<b>WEEK 1 of LOCKDOWN - March 16-21</b>	<b>WEEK 2 of LOCKDOWN – March 22-31</b>	<b>FORTNIGHT 2 of LOCKDOWN – April 1-15</b>	<b>FORTNIGHT 3 of LOCKDOWN – April 16-30</b>
Experienced at least one or two days of zero to one meal a day	Families started getting support, in terms of community kitchen or dry ration	Many struggled to receive the second batch of relief in terms of dry ration or from NGOs	Many are facing scarcity of food again with dry ration already being consumed.
<b>Change in Food habits, almost all families across communities and regions</b>			
Dependency on support from NGO and through credits/ Community kitchen	Dry Ration from PDS provided. Among Those without PDS, very few got through other identity cards.	Certain sections received additional Dry ration from PDS. However, many depend on access through credits	Number of those Dependent on support from NGO and through credits- increased.
		Accessed credit or aid from families, neighbours, CSOs to get milk, oil, groceries and vegetables- especially for children	

Those who had experienced at least one day, when they could access only one meal are 74 families. 85 others survived at least one day with only two meals. There were 60 families, who stated that they had received three meals a day – 51 of these families were from the Kal Oddar community in Tamil Nadu and Kheria Sabar community in West Bengal. However, some highlighted that there were days they were surviving only on rice, or having chutney with roti. Most of them have not consumed vegetables for days. Milk for children was another item, which was not accessed by many. The trends in end of April are almost becoming same as the beginning of the lock down. Many of them do not have food left for more than two or three days.

Only 36 families, out of the 171 families that had ration cards, stated that they had received extra ration during the lockdown. Those that did receive the ration shared that in many cases it was of a very inferior quality. A large number of families did not have a ration card, making it difficult for them to get access to food in this lockdown. 96 of the families that had taken loans had taken these to access food.

The challenge for the workers of the community, especially those who are facing stigmatisation related to sex work, is their inability to access community kitchen that is the government run free canteen. Many time, the community itself is afraid to take chances to access shared public spaces, and that too community-dining, based on history of discriminatory experiences.

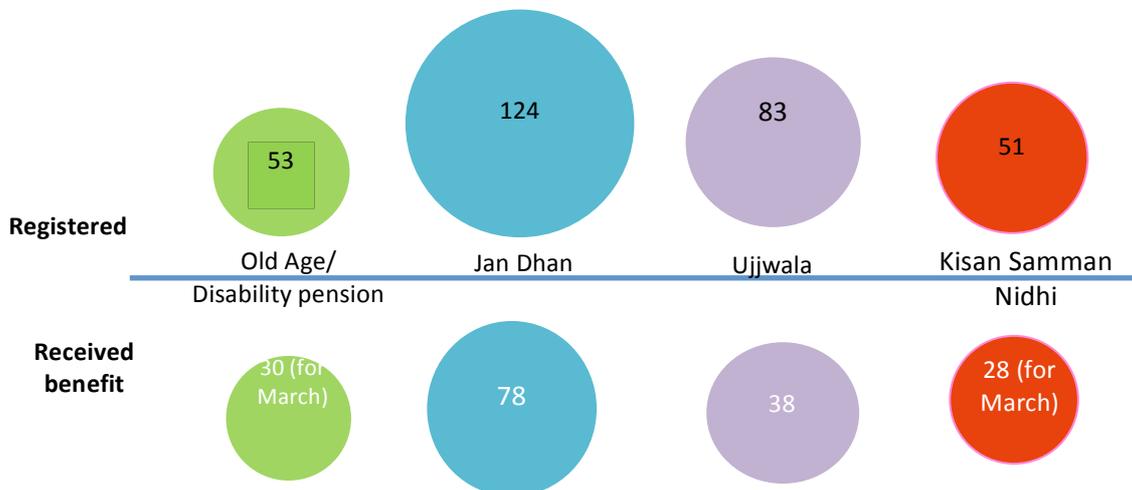
## 2.2 Wages

None of the respondents had received any wages. Nor did any of them have any assurance from their employer regarding access to payments or support from them in the near future. For those involved in daily wage they have not been able to work and neither have they approached their employers for work out of fear of the lockdown. In the cases of those in the entertainment sector or in beggary they have not been able to earn anything since the lockdown as their occupation involves contact with people or crowds.

## 2.3 Support from Government

At the start of the lockdown, the government announced a relief package for workers, this also included money in Jan Dhan accounts for women, advance payments for pensions and free cylinders. During the 240 telephonic interviews, workers were asked about their access to these schemes and details about whether they received these additional relief benefits.

**Figure 5: Access to government schemes**



**Jan Dhan Account:** 78 of the families out of the 124 families that had Jan Dhan accounts received Rs. 500. While many were glad to receive this amount, some raised questions about the amount – “this is barely enough to feed a family for a day, how can they think this is enough” stated one of the women from Delhi. Some were having trouble accessing banks due to the strict lockdown measures.

**Kisan Samman Nidhi:** Out of the 51 families that were registered for the scheme, 28 had received the usual payment for the month of March. Many of the farmers highlighted that it was difficult for them to manage expenses, and many had been forced to take loans to survive.

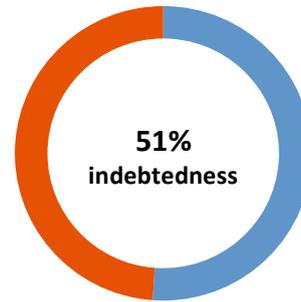
**Old age or Disability pension:** Out of the 53 respondents that were registered, 30 had received the usual pension for the month of March. None of them had confirmed receipt of any additional money to their accounts via these pensions. The government had announced three-month pension payment in advance. In addition to that, the families are entitled to Rs 1000 ex-gratia amount – which none have received.

**Ujjwala scheme:** 83 families were registered under the Ujjwala scheme; only 38 had received gas cylinders.

## 2.4 Indebtedness

As most of the communities do not have easy access to relief and given the lack of stable livelihood options, many have been forced to take loans. Out of 240 respondents, 219 answered questions related to loans. A significant 51 per cent of the workers (112) stated that they had taken a loan since the lockdown began. As it is difficult to access formal avenues for loans, which in any case would have been difficult for the communities to reach even without a lockdown, they prefer taking loans from the influential people or moneylenders around them. 91 of the respondents had taken the loan either from moneylenders or employers or friends. This is a worrying trend as indebtedness has a direct bearing on trafficking, forced labour, bonded labour and even child labour.

Figure 6: Indebtedness (n=219)



The uncertain future, especially for those communities that are involved in trades that involve contact with others (like sex work and beggary) makes the concern of repayment of loans even more pertinent. The community might have to repay the debt by contributing to the trafficking industry – directly or indirectly. This fear is not yet commonly owned by the state or civil society organisations.

## 3. Occupation-wise Findings

### 3.1 Daily Wage Workers

As mentioned earlier, a large number of communities are unable to pursue their traditional occupation, either due to changes in law or because it was not a feasible option to earn a living anymore. As most have not had any formal education and have been unable to learn skills other than those for their traditional occupation, many are therefore forced to engage in daily wage labour. There were 100 respondents that were involved in daily wage labour from six states – Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These respondents were from 10 communities, listed below:



#### 3.1.1 Access to Government support

33 out of the 100 respondents had received financial support from one or more sources from the government – Jan Dhan (Rs. 500 for women), Kisan Samman Nidhi and old age/disabled pension. Of this, 15 families received Rs 500 in Jan Dhan account as per the Covid-19 relief package. Whereas those that received money via the Kisan Samman Nidhi and pensions had received the payment, which was due for the month of March and

“First they take away our livelihood, and then leave us to fend for ourselves. We have no access to education or skills for skilled work, so we are forced to do this work [daily wage labour]”

- Ratan (name changed), Sansi community

not the additional amount as per the Covid-19 relief package.

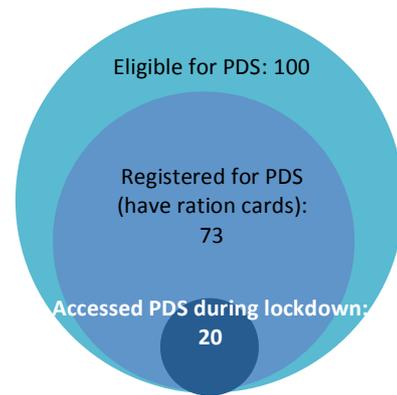
### 3.1.2 Indebtedness

79 respondents answered questions related to loans - of them 22 had taken loans. All loans were taken for food and ration. The most common source of loan was from a moneylender (10), two from friends or relatives and one from a shopkeeper. Nine respondents did not disclose the source of their loan.

### 3.1.3 Access to Food

Out of the 100 respondents involved in daily wage, only 73 respondents had ration cards. 82 did not receive the extra ration via the Public Distribution System (PDS) during this lockdown period. Many pointed out that while they had ration cards, reaching the PDS shop was difficult for them as their hamlets were often far from the ration shop.

**Figure 7: Access to PDS [Daily wage workers]**



### 3.2 Entertainment Sector Workers

Three communities, namely, the Bachhara, Bediya and Nat were traditional performing artists involved in entertaining royalty. Over time, in order to survive, the women engaged in sex work. This is now the most common intergenerational occupation in these communities. Many are also involved in dancing or singing at bars, wedding functions and festivals.



Performing at weddings and local festivals or different occasions, is very common for members of these three communities. Some of them perform in dance bars and sing in hotels as well. Many of them also work to entertain individual clients, including through sex work. A total of 77 interviewed workers out of 240, worked in the entertainment sector.

The lockdown resulted in a big hit for the entertainment industry. As all work is either crowd-based or contact-based, the industry was completely shut. Sumita, remembering the day of announcement of lockdown, said, “Weddings and local functions were postponed. Festival gatherings were prohibited. We were totally shattered.” Sonia said, “Dance bars and hotels were closed. Some of these closures started becoming effective even before the announcement of the lockdown. The fear of virus also affected the overall industry”.

Anvesha said, “Many of us invest in advance from our own savings, looking forward to the wedding months. We buy clothes and other materials required to organise the programmes. Thekedars (contractors), who also have to do their own preparations, generally take advances and do not necessarily pass these on to us”. Thus, the week into the lockdown created a sudden fall in work and income, which affected the workers monetarily as well as psychologically.

### 3.2.1 Wages

None of the 77 workers were able to access any kind of wage for their work or services through the employer or vendor or client. The lockdown has affected their work in entirety. The access to patrons and clients has almost been nil.

One of the biggest concerns amongst is the high level of uncertainty regarding the re-opening of work. Given the nature of work, it is likely that the industry will be forced to remain shut for much longer than some other trades. In addition to this, the fear of the virus may impact the occupation very greatly. There is potential of the women facing further stigmatisation due to the spread of Covid-19 virus. One worker says, "Over many years, we (community) have been stereotyped into one kind of work and activities. Even if we try moving into other activities and occupations, we fail because people don't accept us". For these communities, to try and experiment horizontal mobility in terms of new occupations has always been a challenge. Many have tried and failed individually and collectively. They also feel that society has been ostracizing them, and their acceptance is limited to certain occasions and for certain activities only.

The immediate days of lockdown have provided some of them with experiences that were very difficult to imagine. Sumita said, "Our regular clients and contractors were not of any help- some refused and some were not in a position to help us because of the lockdown."

### 3.2.2 Access to Food

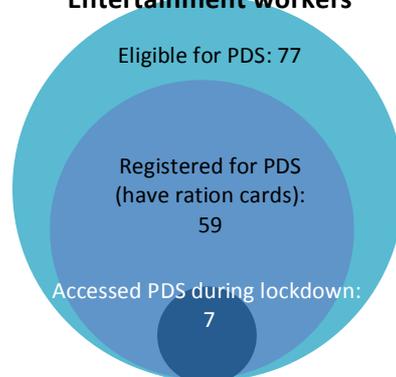
The NAG team received several distress calls from community members in metro cities who were not able to access food. While there were shelter homes, the community members fearing retaliation did not even attempt to go there for food. Rakesh said, "We are used to staying within our community. We avoid getting into wider community dining, especially in scenarios like this. Further, there are no shelter homes close by which are providing meals."

"Here in Delhi there are 8-9 girls living in one room, they were given barely 4kgs of ration once. You tell me, would this be enough for your household?"  
-Sudha (name changed)

The challenge that the community faced with access to food on the first few days of the lockdown has been unprecedented. 45 families were forced to take loans just to fulfil their basic need for food. Of the 77 people interviewed, at least **29** workers stated that there were days when **they got a maximum of only one meal in the day**; and **46** others stated that there were days when **they got a maximum of only two meals**. There were only 2 who said that they were able to access three meals during the lockdown.

In terms of the **public distribution system** figure 8 alongside details the same on numbers of eligible persons, registrations and access to rations during the lockdown. Some of respondents shared that they lived away from the registered shops, but others were not able to access rations even in their own location because accessing was very difficult.

**Figure 8: Access to PDS Entertainment workers**



### 3.2.3 Access to Government support

39 families, out of 77, had received at least one form of financial support from the government – Jan Dhan, Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pension. With the old age / disability pension, most of them are yet to receive the April month pension, which according to the central government, is to be provided in advance.

In reference to the Jan Dhan account, many of the women had received it, but very few have been able to access it. Sumita said, “What will we do with this? We cannot access banks. They are very far. We also do not know the timings of bank.” Further, a number of women have never used Jan Dhan account before. The accounts were non-operative.

Many of the respondents are also into multiple occupations, and engage in agriculture during the sowing and harvesting seasons. Some of them are registered in the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. 29 of them are registered and 18 of them received payment in March 2020. The April amount is still awaited.

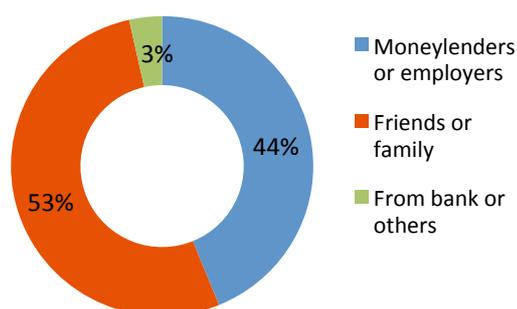
### 3.2.4 Indebtedness

In many cases, people ended up resorting to taking loans. Of the 77 respondents, 58 had to take loans to tide over these difficult times. On being asked about the key reason for the loans, they shared it was largely to cover basic food expenses. A few respondents (10) had also taken loans for farming, as they are involved in multiple occupations.

Given the discrimination and stigma that the workers face, they prefer staying away from administration. Shweta said, “Even when we called helplines, we were told to approach police stations for help. We know it would not work, so we never tried.” Often the past experiences create an impression on the community about institutions that would help them and that would not. Even at the lockdown, those experiences forced them to stay alone and starve. Rani says, “The only way for them was to take loans etc. from grocery shop owners and auto drivers. They were very helpful. We have to return them once we earn something. They are also giving these loans from their miniscule saving.”

Of 77 who took loans, figure 9 shows that 44 per cent got the loan from moneylenders or contractors or employers. This easy credit from private players has been beneficial for them to meet immediate needs, but it is also worrying given the potential impact this can have on trafficking and bonded labour in future. In particular, as most of those involved in the entertainment sector are women, there is an added danger of higher risk to abuse or harassment.

Figure 9: Distribution of sources of loans by entertainment workers (n=77)



Narendra, who volunteers with NAG, said, “A background about the three communities is crucial to understand how indebtedness will fuel trafficking. All three communities are engaged in the sex industry to a certain extent, if not completely. The industry is known for its exploitation and creating channels for trafficking. To get out of the debt, it is very much possible that newer and younger girls might be pushed into commercial sex”.

### 3.3 Agricultural Workers

There were 38 families in the sample that were engaged in different kinds of agricultural work, including rearing of animals for dairy. The communities are:



#### 3.3.1 Access to Government support

Accessibility of five schemes have been explored with the 38 respondents – including Jan Dhan payment of Rs 500, Elderly ex gratia pension, pension for Destitute Women, Disability ex gratia pension, Ujjwala and Kisan Saman Nidhi Yojana. 25 families reported to have received the benefits of any one or more than one of the mentioned schemes.

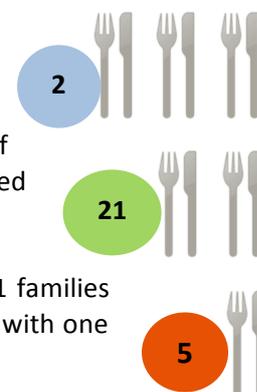
- **Jan Dhan Yojana (JDY):** Among those 25 who received benefits, 22 families received Rs.500 in their Jan Dhan accounts.
- **Elderly/Disabled ex gratia pension:** Only 3 families received the pension benefits
- **Ujjwala Yojana:** Though 19 families registered in the scheme, only 9 have received free cylinders so far.
- **Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana:** 15 out of 25 beneficiary families have received the first quarter instalment of Kisan Samman scheme.
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#### 3.3.2 Access to Food

Among 38 farmer families, 24 families haven't received any dry ration under the Public Distribution System. It's significant to note that even after 40 days of nationwide lockdown, nearly 63% of the interviewed families neither received rice or pulses as promised by the central government.

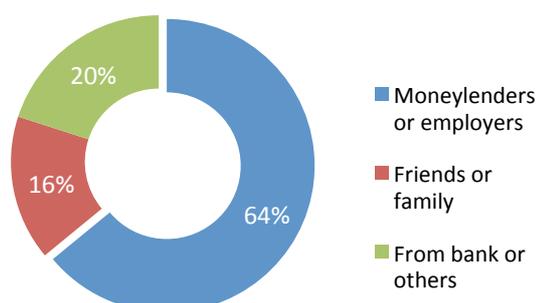
Though none of the families reported to have gone hungry yet, 21 families have survived on merely two meals a day followed by five families with one meal and just two families with three meals a day.

**Figure 10: Distribution of meals per day**



#### 3.3.3 Indebtedness

**Figure 11: Distribution of sources of loans (n=38)**

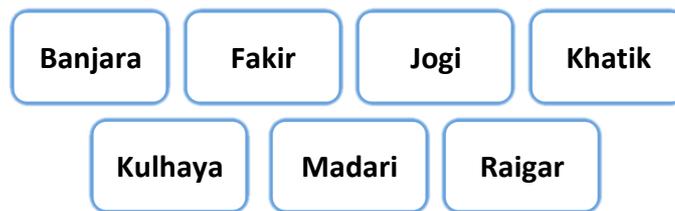


The intensive three-phased lockdown has brought the informal sector to a standstill and the economic landscape has projected no positive picture. The crisis has already been widely discussed across different domains and its aftermath has too been anticipated. Data shows that a very high number (26 out of 38) of families have already been forced to take loans from various sources in past one month.

Employers and contractors being the largest source of informal lending, it leaves a clear indication of vulnerable situation that borrows might have to face on failure of repaying the loan with interest rate levied on the same. Situation like bondage (and lately a vicious cycle of debt burden) is most likely to happen if there are no means of income generation in near future. The main reasons for loans were food and farming.

### 3.4 Beggary

Many of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes have now been forced into begging as a means of livelihood, due to the lack of better options. Some of these communities were traditionally performance artists like snake charmers, etc. The 27 families that were involved in begging were from the following communities:



#### 3.4.1 Access to Government support

Accessibility of five schemes have been explored with the 27 respondents – including Jan Dhan payment of Rs 500, Elderly ex gratia pension, Disability ex gratia pension, Ujjwala and Kisan Saman Nidhi Yojana. While none of the families is eligible for Kisan Saman Nidhi Yojana, only 9 out of 27 families reported to have received the benefits of any one or more than one of the mentioned schemes.

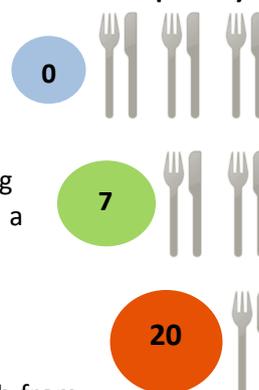
- **Jan Dhan Yojana (JDY):** Among those 9 who received benefits, 5 families received Rs.500 in their Jan Dhan accounts.
- **Elderly/ Disabled ex gratia pension:** Only 5 families received the pension benefits
- **Ujjwala Yojana:** Though 8 families registered in the scheme, only 2 have received free cylinders so far.

#### 3.4.2 Access to Food

Among 27 families engaged with begging, the data reveals that 23 families haven't received any dry ration under the Public Distribution System. Though the nation has entered in the third phase of its lockdown since March, nearly 85% of the interviewed families neither received rice or pulses as announced by the central government.

With regards to adequate intake of food, 20 families are surviving only on 1 meal day while 7 are somehow managing with 2 meals a day. No family reported to have 3 meals a day during this span.

**Figure 9: Distribution of meals per day**



#### 3.4.3 Indebtedness

Out of 27 families, 11 families have taken a loan in last one month from

different sources with the majority from friends or family followed by moneylenders and finance institutions. A major cause of concern for these families is the uncertainty of their future, and their ability to repay the loans.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the lockdown:

1. A nodal officer should be appointed in districts with a high population of NT-DNTs. The nodal office will keep track of relief work and coordinate with the district collector and other departments as required. Apart from reporting to the collector, the nodal officer should also report to the state NT-DNT Welfare Board.
2. The nodal officer should be in-charge of identifying and registering those that do not have a Jan Dhan account or does not have a pension card. These should be opened/provided on an urgent basis.
3. Direct cash transfers, to a tune of a six-month compensation of a minimum of Rs. 5000 in Jan Dhan accounts should be facilitated. A special provision should be made to include those in need who do not have a Jan Dhan accounts. Pensions should also be increased to Rs. 5000 per month.
4. For pastoral communities, like the Van Gujjars, apart from ration and medical facilities for the families, fodder and medical aid for animals should be available on an urgent need basis for the next five months. Access to medical support for animals in the form of a national helpline with referral services, is also needed. The State should compensate for any loss of animals during the lockdown.
5. In rural areas, there is an urgent need to initiate livelihood programs so that there is cash liquidity and those who do not have a MNREGA card should also be included in this.
6. The government should share a clear plan and guideline for food supply and distribution, so as to reduce black-marketing. Nomadic communities who have for long been demanding access to the closest public distribution system should also be granted the same at this time. A complaint number should be provided to report any cases of black marketing.
7. Anganwadi centres closer to the hamlets of DNT communities should be equipped with provision for cooked food – at least one meal a day for families in need and for provision of basic medicines, free of cost

Soon after lockdown is lifted:

1. Gas cylinders, water and electricity bills should be made free universally for all daily-wage workers (including entertainment workers) upto a certain ceiling, for the next six months.
2. The National NT-DNT Welfare Board should start a helpline and should act as a nodal agency for any NT-DNT members in distress.
3. A permanent commission should be created that can look into the issues of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes.
4. The Government of India should conduct a separate census of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes. This will help policy makers develop schemes specific to the needs of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes.

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**Data Collection:** Naya Jeevan Gyan Prachar Sewa Samiti (Madhya Pradesh); Bhumi Gramuuthan Evam Sebhagi Gramin Vikas Samiti (Madhya Pradesh); Sambhawana Welfare Society (Bihar); Samvedna (Madhya Pradesh); Towards Advocacy, Networking and Developmental Action (Maharashtra); Vikram (Rajasthan), Aditi Mishra (Maharashtra); Suresh Jadebh (Maharashtra); Atish Chhara (Gujarat); Rajvelu (Tamil Nadu)

**Community Fellows** (data collection and analysis support): Farida, Jatin, Megha, Roshni, Shakila and Twinkle

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**Advisor:** Pradeep (PiC)

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### Annexure: Key Tables

GOVERNMENT SCHEME	STATUS			
	WEEK 1 of LOCKDOWN - March 16-21	WEEK 2 of LOCKDOWN – March 22-31	FORTNIGHT 2 of LOCKDOWN – April 1-15	FORTNIGHT 3 of LOCKDOWN – April 16-30
<b>Jan Dhan</b>	Announcement made by Government that all women account holders entitled to Rs 500pm from April		Government claims disbursements made between 1 – 9 April	124 of 240 families eligible. 78 received Rs 500. <u>Most have not withdrawn due to bank inaccessibility</u>
<b>Old age/ Disability/Widow Pension (Regular: Old age pension is Rs 200 pm until age 79 and, Rs 500pm after 79 Disability/Widow pension: Rs 200 pm)</b>	Announcement made by Government that due to Covid19, an ex gratia Rs 1000 special disbursement be made		Government claims that disbursement approved in first fortnight of April.	Out of 240 families, 53 registered. 30 received usual payment of March. None has received any special disbursement for Covid.
<b>Kisaan Samman Nidhi</b>	Announcement made of advancing Rs 2000 of 2020-21 to April.	28 families received their regular March amount	Out of 240 families, 51 registered under the scheme. None has received any amount in April.	
<b>Ujjwala Scheme</b>	Announcement that free gas cylinders to be provided to 8 crore poor families for the next three months. Out of 240 families, 2 received free LPG	Increased from 2 to 10	Increased from 10 to 20	Increased to 38 families, out of 83 families registered.

Community	No. of respondents
Bacchara	36
Bedia	26
Nat	44

Gender	No. of respondents
Female	58
Male	48

Districts	No. of respondents
Morena	6
Ajmer	11
Araria	21
Barmer	3
Bhopal	2
Jodhpur	1
Mumbai	5
Neemuch	38
Rajgarh	2
Supaul	7
Udaipur	1
Vidisha	4
Delhi	5

State	No. of respondents
Bihar	28
Delhi	5
Madhya Pradesh	52
Maharashtra	5
Rajasthan	16

	No. of families
Hungry	3
One meal	38
Two meals	61
Three meals	4
Total	106

	No. of families
Had to take loans during lockdown period	79
From Money lenders or employers/contractors	37
From friends/families	36
From Employer	4
Others	2

	Interviewed	Eligible	Registered	Received
Jan Dhan	83	83	80	57
PDS	83	83	80	9
Kissan Samman Nidhi	83		45	28
Old age/Disabled/Widow	83		29	19