

Rural young migrants and COVID-19

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- ▶ Recent nationally representative data on migration is not available (Census 2011, NSS survey 2007-08).
- ▶ Overall, my best guess ex-ante and ex-post is that about 11 million inter-state migrants came home.
- ▶ We will present results from our survey of rural migrants, started in 2019, last round completed a week ago!

DDU-GKY training programme and our study

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:

- ▶ Targets rural disadvantaged youth:
 - ▶ Below Poverty Line households.
 - ▶ Education: some high-school.
 - ▶ Quotas for female and SC / ST.
- ▶ Training + placement into salaried job.
- ▶ Since 2014: 1m youth trained, 0.5 placed.

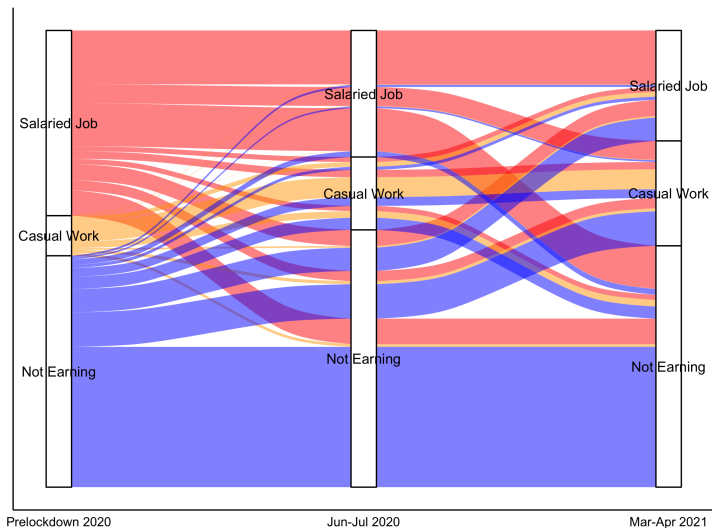
Our study:

- ▶ Study of DDU-GKY trainees from Bihar and Jharkhand.
- ▶ Started in 2018, multiple JPAL experimental projects.
- ▶ Collaboration with BSLPS, JSLPS and MoRD.

Phone survey

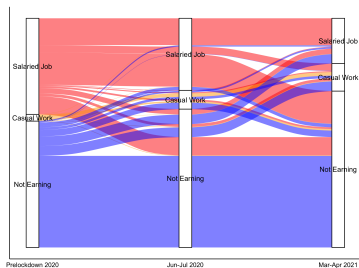
- ▶ Sample of 2,259 youth who were trained in 2019.
 - ▶ 1/3 from Jharkhand and 2/3 from Bihar.
 - ▶ 30% 10th grade, 50% 12th grade.
 - ▶ 57% female, 45% ST and 17% SC.
- ▶ Three rounds of survey:
 1. Pre-lockdown March 2020 (attrition 5%).
 2. After lockdown eased June-July 2020 (attrition 10%).
 3. One year later March-April 2021 (attrition 15%).
- ▶ Coauthors: B. Chakravorty, M. Lohnert, P. Panda, Apurav Bhatiya, Roland Rathelot.
- ▶ Funding from EQUIP / ESRC, Warwick and IGC (Thanks!).

Survey Results: Employment

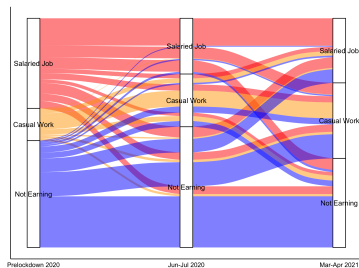


Source: Survey of DDU-GKY trainees

Survey Results: Employment by gender

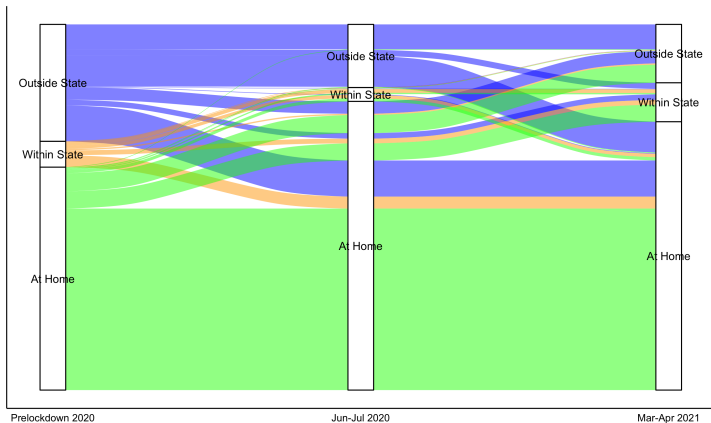


(a) Female



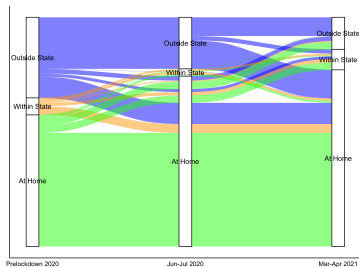
(b) Male

Survey Results: Migration

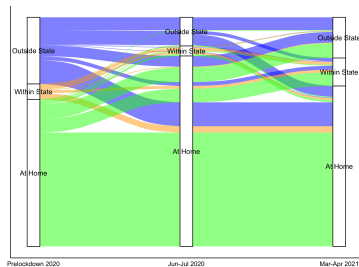


Source: Survey of DDU-GKY trainees

Survey Results: Migration by gender

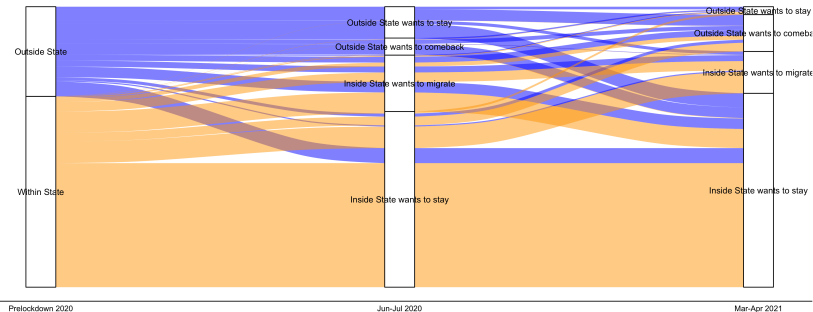


(c) Female



(d) Male

Survey Results: Migration aspirations



Source: Survey of DDU-GKY trainees

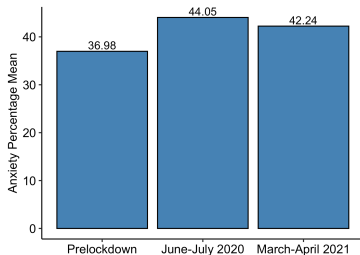
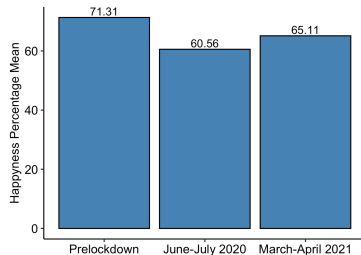
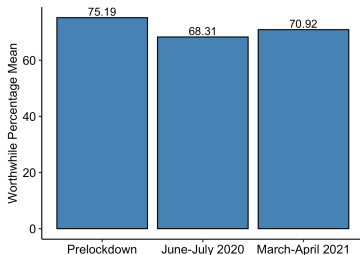
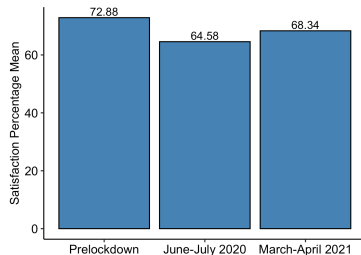
How did migrant workers cope?

- ▶ 26% of employees received help from their employers.
- ▶ Very few employees withdrew from their PF accounts.
- ▶ Very few migrants received family support.
- ▶ The Bihar Aapda programme reached 61% of migrants.
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- ▶ The Bihar Aapda programme reached 61% of migrants.
- ▶ 51% of migrants relied on government assistance.
- ▶ In the end 31% of migrants received no support at all.
- ▶ 32% of them had to reduce their daily food intake!

Survey Results: Wellbeing



Source: Survey of DDU-GKY trainees

Conclusion

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- ▶ Some did engage with labor markets again and migrated between June-July 2020 and March-April 2021.
- ▶ But one year later, many are still at home doing either casual or housework and gave up on migration.
- ▶ With the second wave, it will be ever harder to integrate them into urban labor markets.