

COVID Adolescent Vulnerability Assessment Conducted by Child Protection Section

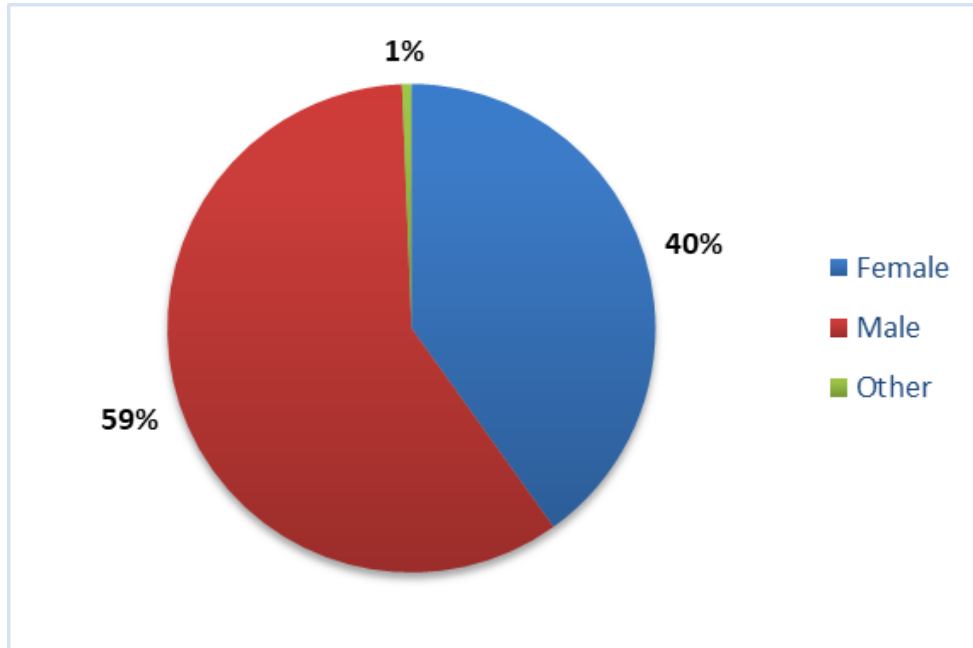
Analysis and Insights | 29th April-15th May 2020

The assessment was conducted from 29th April to 15th May 2020, key findings from which are summarised below:

- The assessment received **18,982 responses**.
- The U-Reporters identified as **male(59%), female(40%)** and **other(1%)**
- **91%** of U-Reporters were **less than 25 years of age**.
- **39.7%** of U-Reporters belonged to a **rural locality**.
- **Responses** were received from **all states** and **5 union territories-** Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry
- **Maximum** number of **responses** were received from **Delhi followed by Haryana**.
- **English(61.2%)** was the most preferred language to take the assessment followed by **Hindi(34%), Bengali(1.2%), Marathi(0.8%), Assamese(0.7%)** (n=12,831)

Profile of Respondents

Respondents by Sex

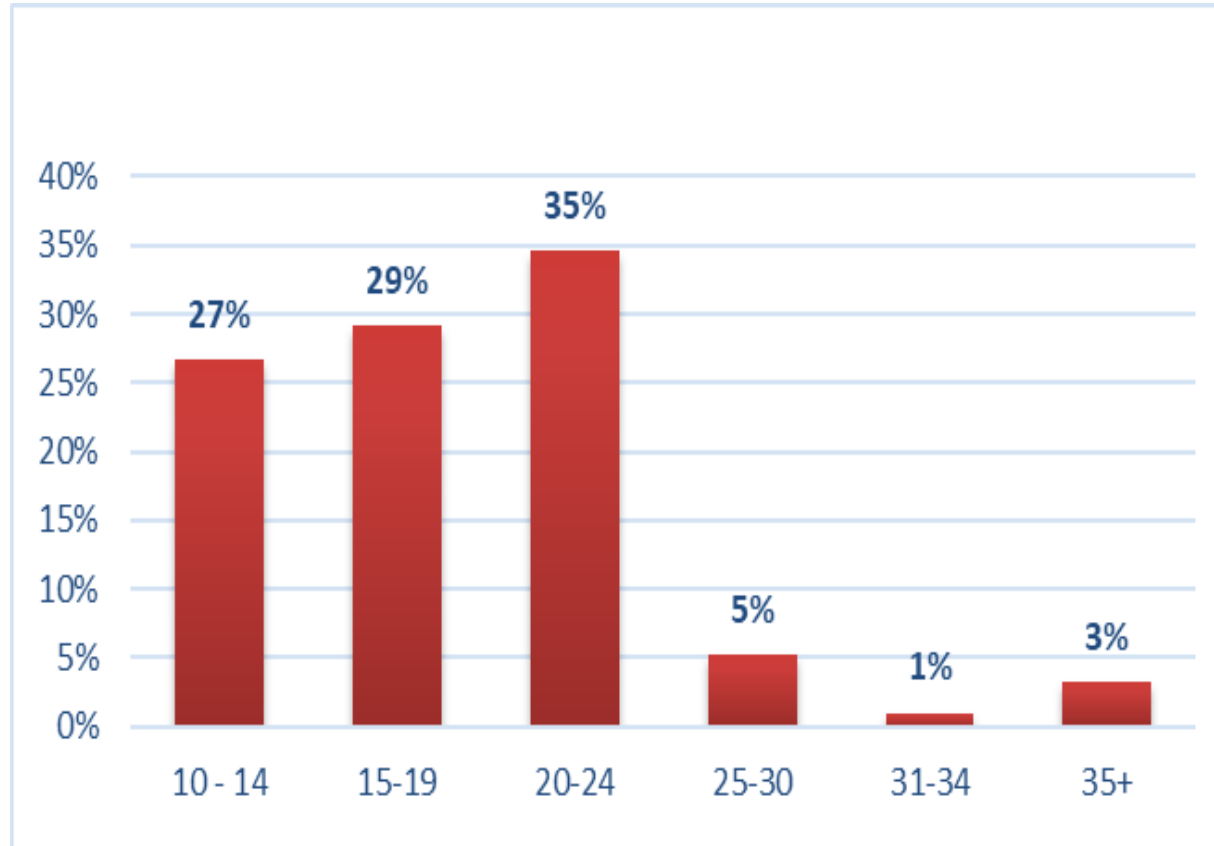


N=18,092

Male- 59%, Female- 40%, Other- 1%

- Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Delhi had **50% or more female U-Reporters**
- Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Chhattisgarh had **45-49% female U-Reporters**
- Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Bihar had **less than 30% female U-Reporters**

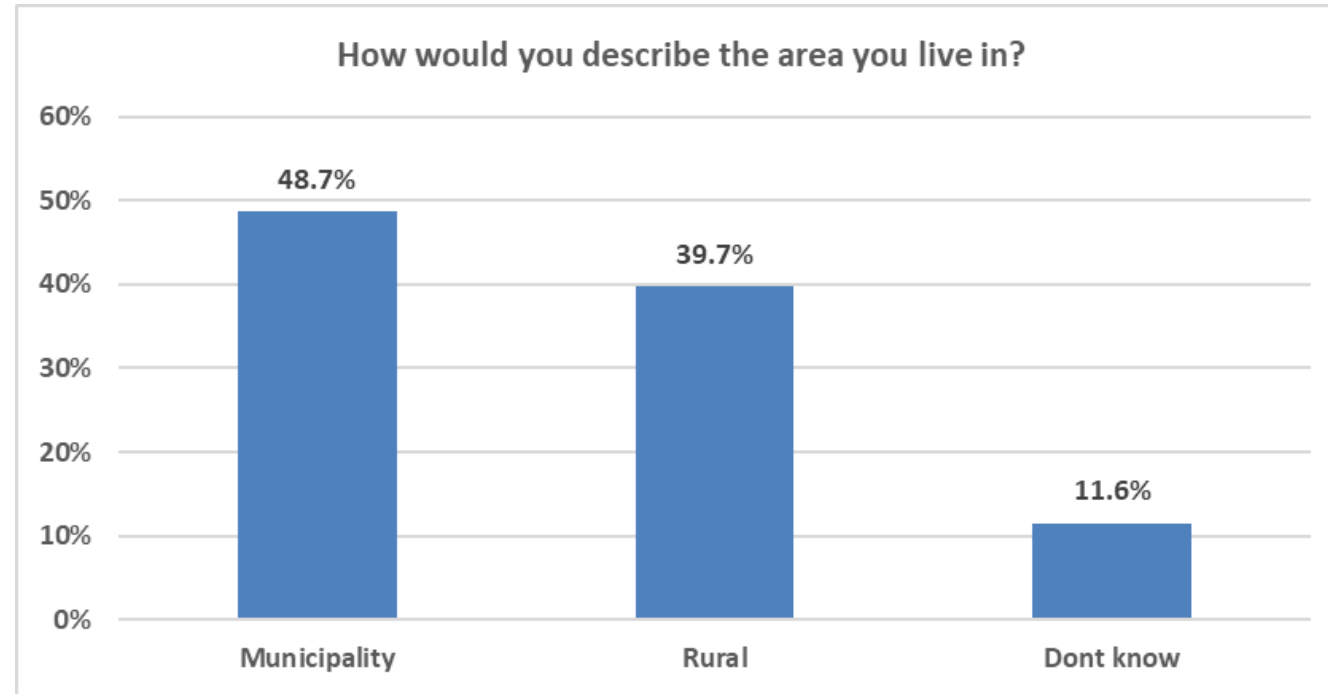
Respondents by Age Groups



N= 16,450

91% of U-Reporters were less than 25 years of age of which 42% were females.

Respondents by Locality

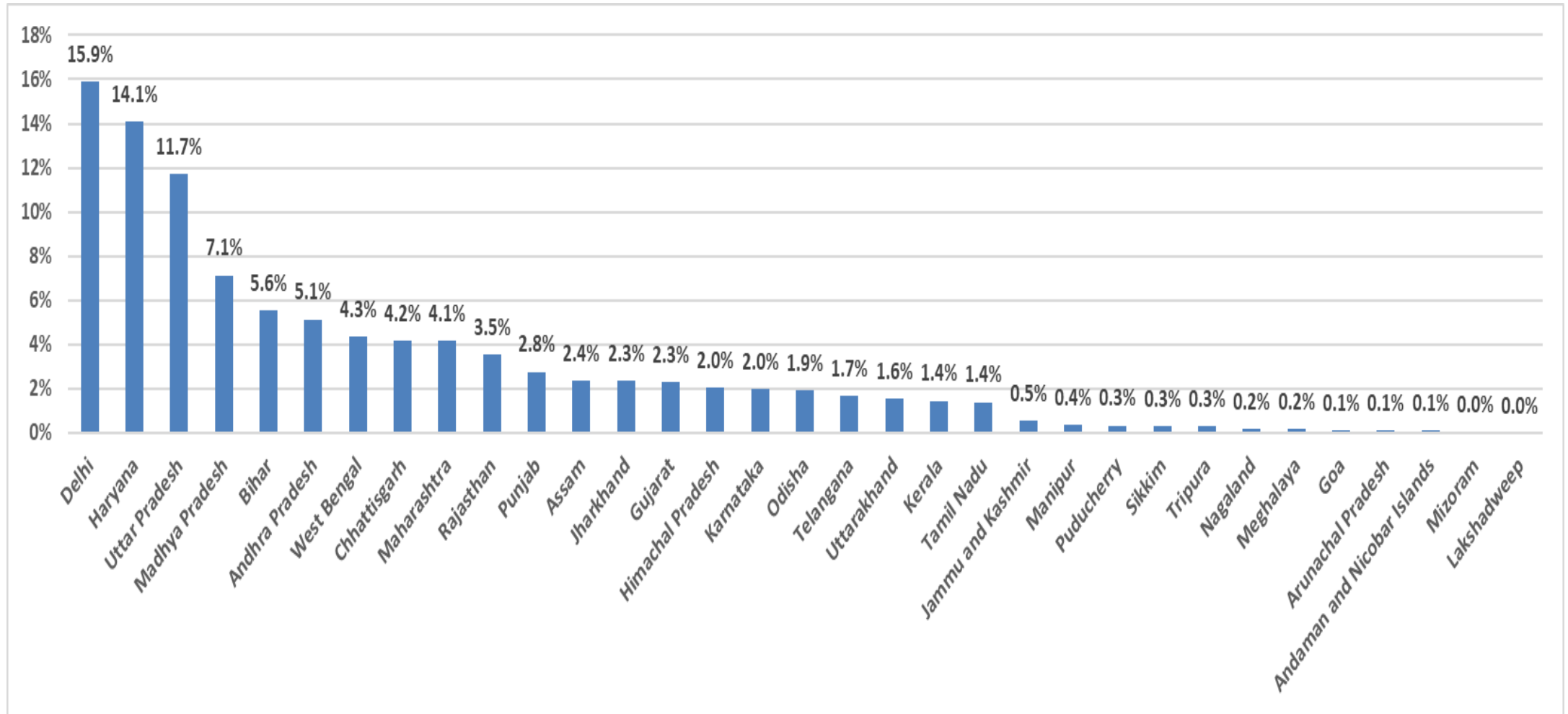


N=18,982

44.8% of the urban U-Reporters and 32.2% of the rural U-Reporters were females.

Respondents by States/Union Territories

N=17,286



Question wise Analysis

What are the top three challenges that are you facing as a result of COVID – 19?

For 45% of the U-Reporters, the top challenge is the closure of schools/colleges. Other main challenges reported are:

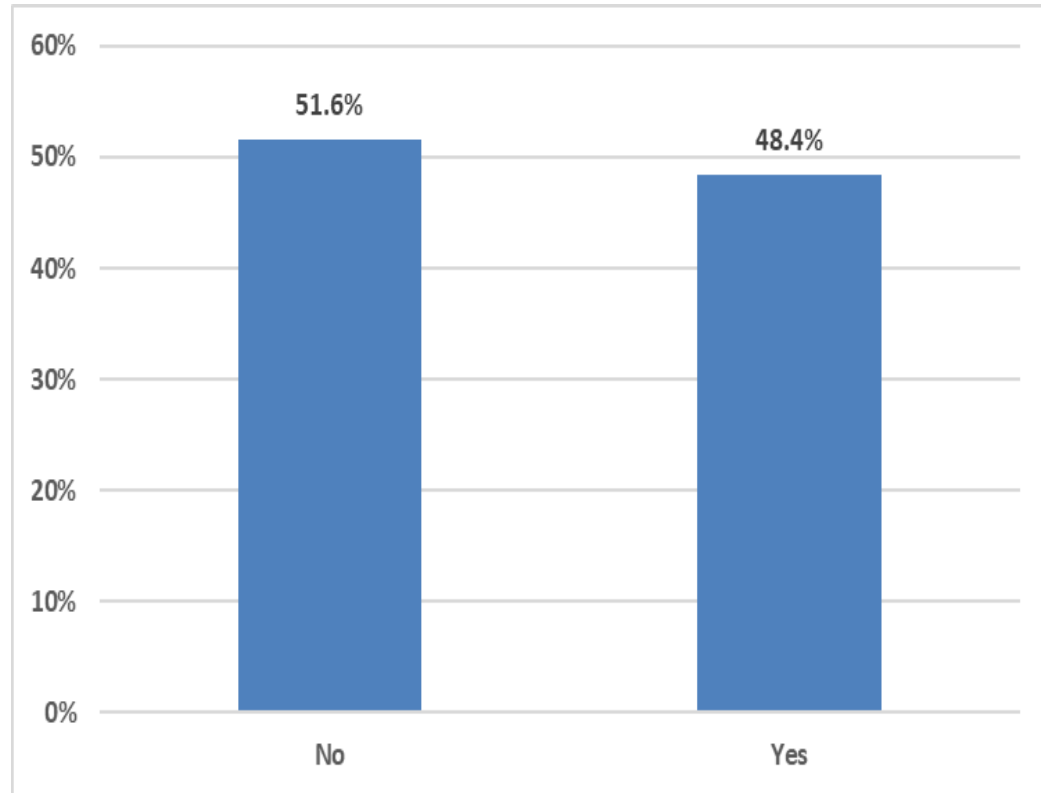
- Separation from family and friends
- Inability to access online classrooms run by schools and colleges
- Fake news and rumours online
- Loss of family income and no alternative livelihood opportunity
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Inability to access job and training opportunities

Other Challenges

Some U-Reporters mentioned specific challenges being faced by them:

- Lack of access to academic resources such as books/stationery due to closed shops/limited online delivery services
- Confusion/stress over the schedule of the pending board/entrance exams and subsequent admission process
- Difficulty in understanding online lectures, preference for in person classes
- Headaches/stress on eyes due to excessive screen time
- Inadequate equipment such as laptops and internet connectivity to work online
- Restrictions on outdoor activities, posing a challenge to physical fitness
- Lack of access to non-critical but essential services such as those of electricians/plumbers
- Increase in load of work as some try to strike a balance between household chores and professional work
- Loss of a family member during this time

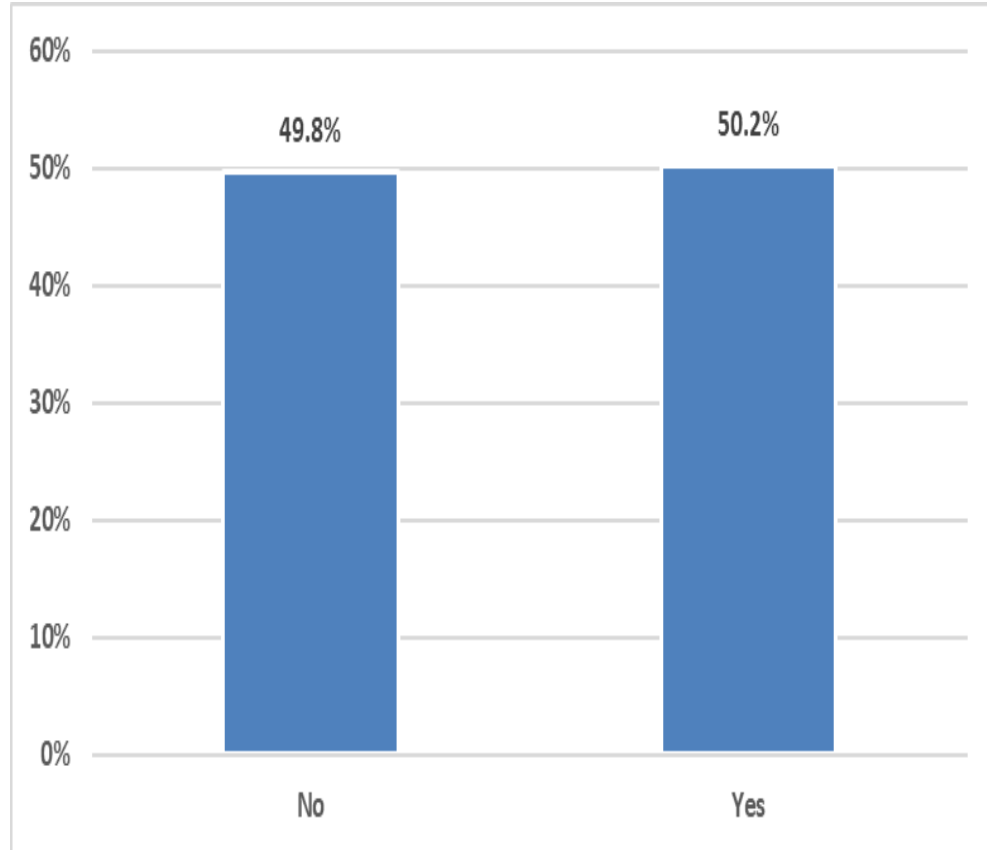
Are you aware of any special central government benefits or schemes during this crisis?



N= 14,181

- **Locality:** 53% U-Reporters from **urban areas** and 43% respondents from **rural areas** were aware of the schemes.
- **Sex:** 51% **females** and 47% **males** were aware of the schemes. 61% of those who identified as **other sex** were **not aware** of the schemes.
- **Age groups:** 64% of **10-14 year olds** reported that they were aware of the government schemes. On the other hand **50% or more** of those belonging to the other age groups said that they were **not aware** of these schemes.

Have you been able to access the benefits of these schemes?



N= 6784

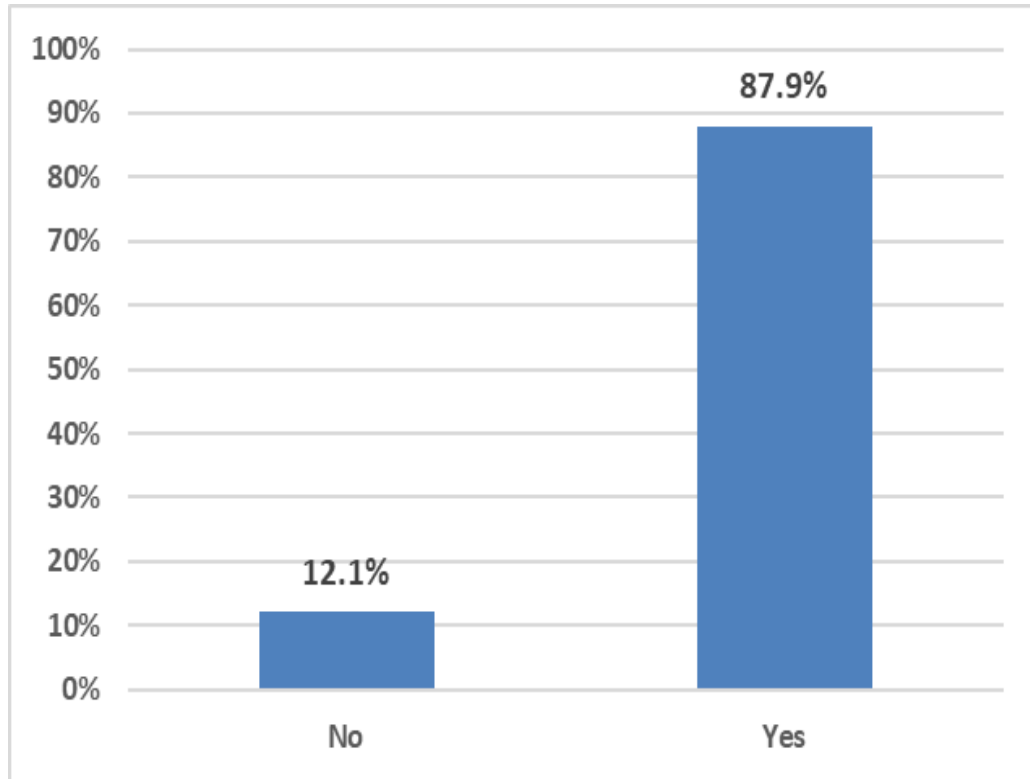
This question was polled to those who reported that they were aware of the government schemes.

Locality: More rural U-Reporters (**55%**) reported to have been able to access the benefits of these schemes than urban U-Reporters (**47%**).

Sex: **51% females** and **49% males** reported that they had been able to access the benefits. **67%** of those identifying as **other sex** said that they were **not able** to access the benefits.

Age Groups: **53%** of those belonging to the age groups of **10-14 years** and **15-19 years** reported that they were able to access the benefits. On the other hand **more than half** of those belonging to the other age groups said that they were **not able** to access the benefits.

Do you have access to information and messages related to COVID on how you can keep yourself safe?



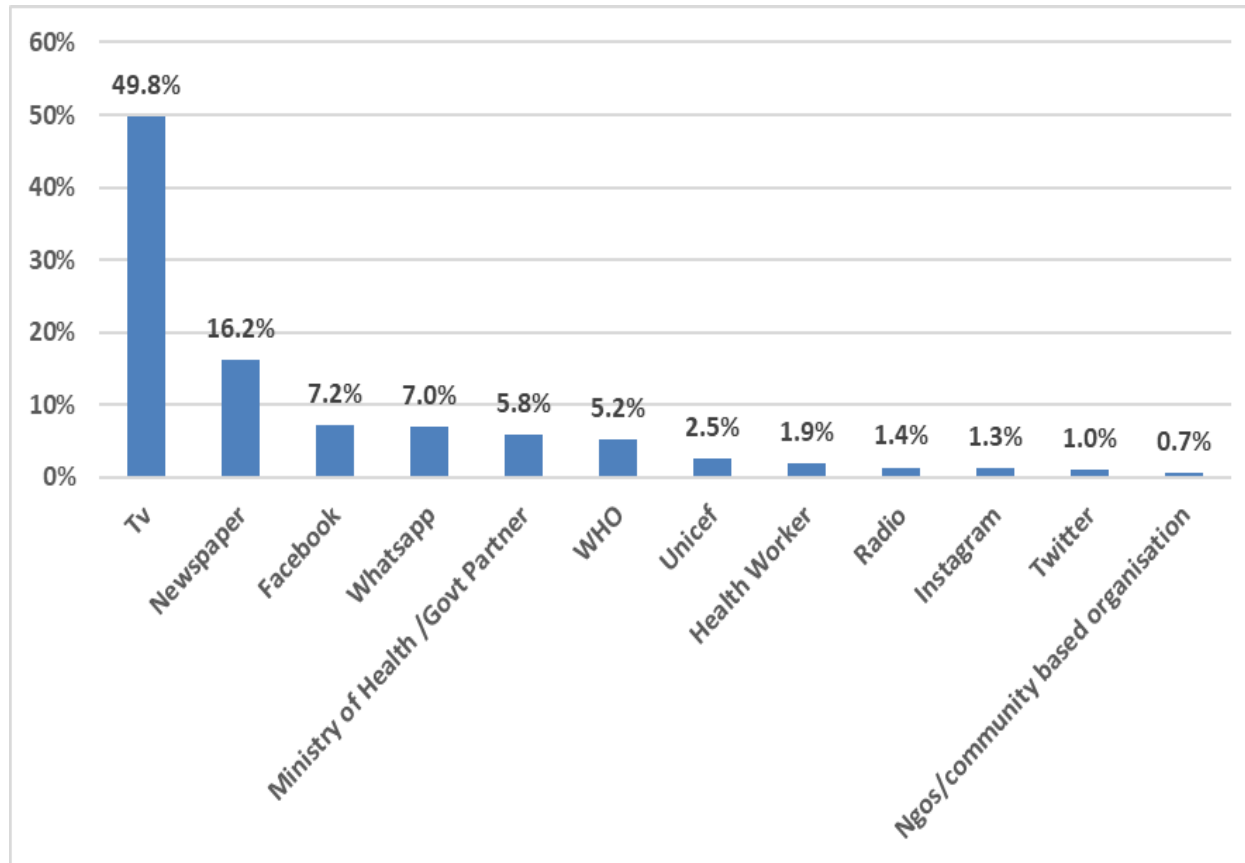
N=13,865

Locality: 92% of **urban** U-Reporters and 83% of **rural** U-Reporters said that they **had access** to the relevant information and messages.

Sex: 90% of **females**, 86% of **males** and 61% of those identifying as **other sex** reported that they had access to information related to COVID-19 to keep themselves safe.

Age Groups: **More than 80%** of the U-Reporters from each age group reported that they **had access** to the relevant information and messages. The highest percentage (93%) among them being that of 10-14 year olds.

What is your main source of information?



N=13,653

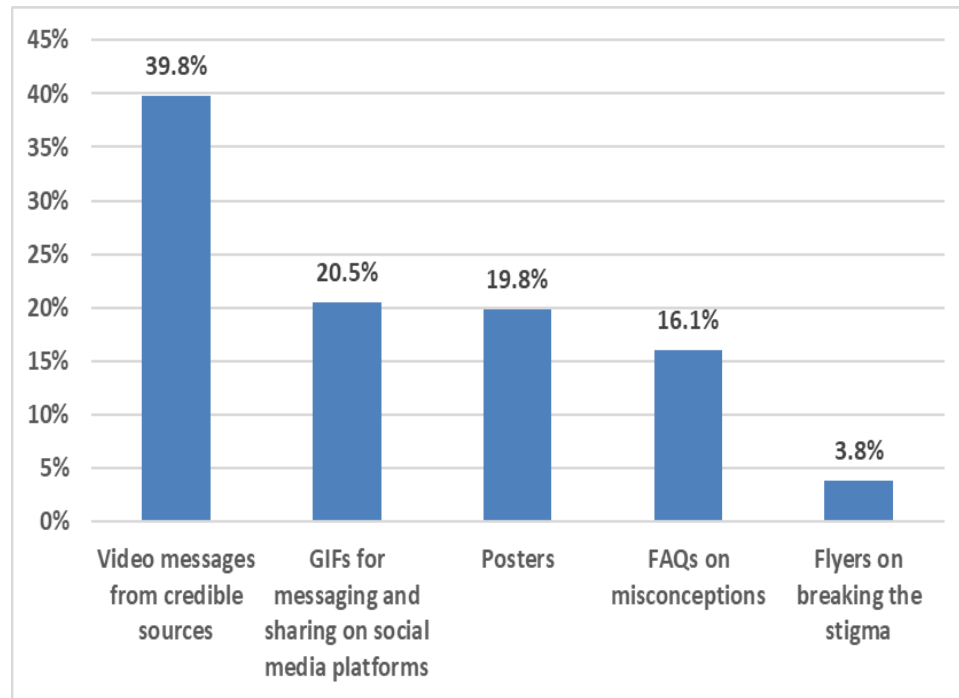
T.V. was the **main source of information** for most (**49.8%**) respondents, followed by **Newspaper(16.2%), Facebook(7.2%)** and **WhatsApp(7%)**.

Locality: In rural areas, this order of preference was maintained. In urban areas, the Ministry of Health and the WHO ranked 3rd and 4th among the main sources of information, followed by WhatsApp and Facebook.

Sex: Those identifying as Other sex, cited UNICEF and WHO among their top 3 sources of information- TV, Newspaper/UNICEF, Facebook/WHO.

Age Groups: TV and Newspaper were the top two sources of information across all age groups with slight variations in the preference for the other sources.

What support would you need to help inform others better on COVID-19?



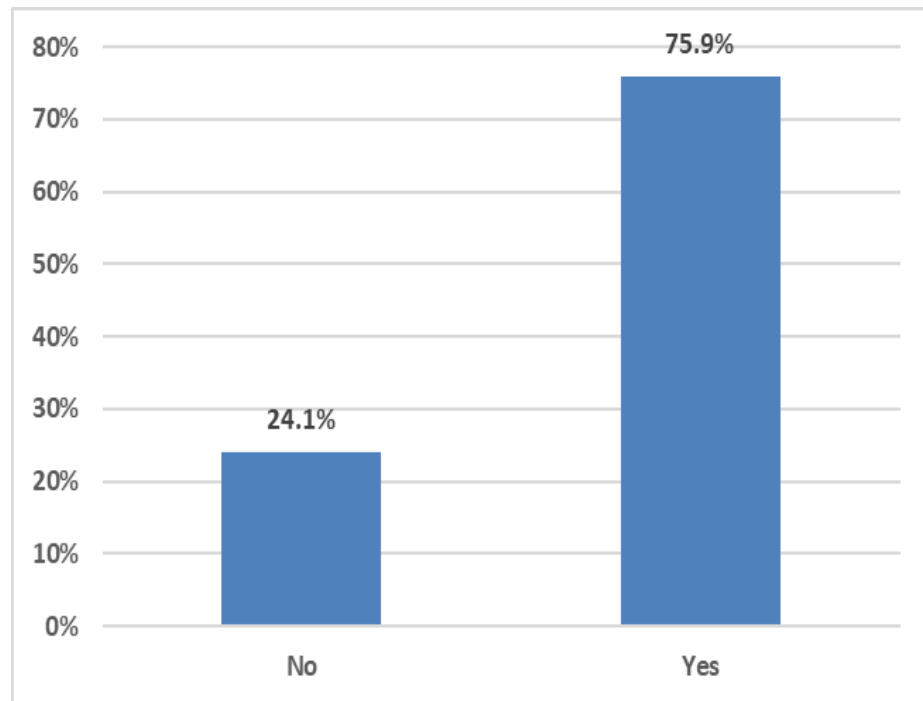
N=13,128

Locality: There was no variation in the trend among rural and urban U-Reporters.

Sex: There was no variation in the trend by sex.

Age groups: Video messages as a means of support was the most selected option across all age groups with a slight variation in preference for the rest of the options. For those below the age of 20, posters were the second most selected option followed by GIFs. While for those above the age of 25 FAQs on misconceptions was ranked among top 3 sources.

Have you or your friends been able to take any action within your family or community to inform people on ways to keep themselves safe?



N=12,897

Locality: 76% of urban U-Reporters and 78% of rural U-Reporters said that they had taken actions to inform people on ways to keep themselves safe.

Sex: 76 % male and female U-Reporters and 66% of those identifying as other sex answered in the affirmative to this question.

Age groups: More than 72% of U-Reporters across all age groups reported to have taken positive actions, maximum responses being from those above the age of 30(>83%).

Describe your initiatives in up to 200 words and inspire others to act

A lot of U-Reporters wrote about frequently reminding their families and friends about ways to keep themselves safe during COVID-19- washing hands/using sanitisers, practising social distancing, wearing masks, venturing out only if it's absolutely necessary, washing vegetables/sanitising packets after purchase and adhering to the rules of the lockdown.

A few interesting initiatives are listed below:

- Verifying messages before forwarding them to combat rumours and fake news and sharing credible sources of information
- Educating people that blaming certain communities for the spread of the disease is wrong and that any one could be infected.
- Making posters/videos depicting steps to follow to stay safe and sharing them on social media.
- Choreographing dance steps to spread awareness on keeping oneself safe

N= 9795

This question was polled to those who said that they had taken action to spread awareness among their families/communities on how to keep themselves safe during COVID-19.

- Writing blog posts, highlighting ways to keep safe
- Conducting online counselling sessions to help people alleviate stress during these challenging times
- Volunteering (taking online classes) to spread awareness about the disease.
- Making masks at home for distribution
- Distributing essential items such as masks, soaps, sanitisers, food to those in need
- Recommending/sharing media- videos, movies, songs with family and friends to uplift their spirits

Key Takeaways

- For 45% of U-Reporters the main challenge during COVID-19 is the closure of schools/colleges. Other challenges are- separation from family and friends, inability to access online classrooms run by schools and colleges, fake news and rumours online, loss of family income and no alternative livelihood opportunity, increased stress and anxiety, inability to access job and training opportunities
- 48% of U-Reporters are aware of special central government benefits or schemes during this crisis
- 50% of those who are aware have been able to access the benefits of these schemes
- 88% of U-Reporters have access to information and messages related to COVID-19 on how to keep themselves safe

Key Takeaways

- T.V. is the main source of information for most (49.8%) U-Reporters, followed by Newspaper(16.2%), Facebook(7.2%) and WhatsApp(7%).
- 40% of the U-Reporters said that they consider videos from credible sources as a means to inform others on COVID-19. GIFs (21%) and Posters(20%) were other cited sources
- 76% of the U-Reporters have been able to take actions within their family or community to inform people on ways to keep themselves safe.

About the Rapid Assessment

Objective: The assessment aims to understand the challenges faced by adolescents and whether they have access to essential services during the ongoing lockdown for COVID-19.

Methodology: The assessment was conducted through a survey consisting of 9 questions- 8 close ended and an open ended question. It was conducted digitally through UNICEF's U-Report platform on WhatsApp, Facebook and Telegram. The survey was offered in English and 10 Indian languages. The intended audience for this survey was the adolescent population of the country.

A link to the survey was shared by UNICEF and partner organizations among their personal and professional networks. Subsequently the reach was mostly organic with some targeted advertising on Facebook through Facebook ads. The survey questions can be found in Annexure A of this presentation.

Limitations of the Assessment

There were a few limitations associated with the assessment in terms of the ease of access to technology, tech-literacy and awareness about the U-Report platform.

- The assessment could be taken by those who had mobile phones, access to the internet, were registered on social media platforms, were literate in one of the 11 languages and had knowledge about the U-Report platform.
- The responses were received through voluntary participation of people rather than through sampling, leading to an underrepresentation of participants across age, sex and geography.
- A continuous decline in response rate was observed as U-Reporters dropped off through the survey, affecting the quality of responses received.

Context and Duration of the Assessment

On **29th April, 2020** when the assessment began,
The total number of COVID-19 cases in India were 31,332 with 1,007 deaths.

On **15th May, 2020** when the data for analysis was pulled,
The total number of COVID-19 cases in India were 81,970 with 2,649 deaths.

Source: [WHO COVID-19 SitReps](#)

During this period, phase 2 of the lockdown ended on 3rd May with the Government of India announcing the extension of the lockdown till 17th May.

Annexure A: Survey Questions & Script

As an adolescent or youth (between age 10 to 24 years), the ongoing lockdown for COVID-19 or Corona Virus is a challenging time.

UNICEF India wants YOUR help to understand these challenges through this survey!

The result of this survey will help develop the upcoming government policies and useful resources for adolescents and young people during COVID-19 or Corona Virus.

Are you ready? Type Yes

1. The area you live in, is _____.

- A. is a village area
- B. is under a municipality
- C. don't know

2. What are the top three challenges that are you facing as a result of COVID – 19? Tell us one by one:

- A. Closure of schools/colleges
- B. Unable to access online classrooms run by schools /colleges
- C. Separation from family & friends
- D. Illness in family or among friends
- E. Unable to access health care services
- F. Increased stress and anxiety
- G. Fake news and rumours online
- H. Violence within homes
- I. Stigma & discrimination
- J. Loss of family income and no alternative livelihood opportunity
- K. Unable to access to benefits from government schemes
- L. Lack of access to the food supply, basic household provisions, and medicines, etc
- M. Unable to access job and training opportunities
- N. Other

3. Are you aware of any special central government benefits or schemes during this crisis?

Type Y for Yes, N for No

4. If yes, have you been able to access these benefits?

Type Y for Yes, N for No

5. Do you have access to information and messages related to COVID on how you can keep yourself safe?

Type Y for Yes, N for No

6. What is your main source of information? Reply with the correct option.

- A. Newspaper
- B. Radio
- C. TV/ News
- D. Facebook
- E. WhatsApp
- F. Twitter
- G. Instagram
- H. Health worker or doctor
- I. NGOs or community-based organisations
- J. Ministry of Health/Government platforms
- K. UNICEF
- L. WHO

7. What support would you need to help inform others better on COVID-19? Reply with the correct option.

- A. Posters
- B. FAQs on misconceptions
- C. Video messages from credible sources
- D. Flyers on breaking the stigma
- E. GIFs for messaging and sharing on social media platforms

8. Have you or your friends been able to take any action within your family or community to inform people on ways to keep themselves safe?

Type Y for Yes, N for No

9. If yes, describe your initiatives in up to 200 words and inspire others to act (open ended question)

Thank you for taking part in the survey! You can follow the results of the survey on our website:

<https://india.ureport.in/>

Forward the next message to your friends and family so that they can also share their opinions!

Hey there! I just took part in UNICEF India's survey to tell them about my key concerns and challenges as a youth during the lockdown to stop COVID-19 or Coronavirus.

YOU can participate in it too and help to protect yourself, your family, friends, and community!

Click here to take the survey:<link>