

A REPORT OF HOW DHARAVI COPE WITH COVID-19

This is the first of a weekly report from our ongoing research in Dharavi as we speak to migrant labourers, factory owners, families and social activists about the current situation, the challenges they face and how they manage them.

This data has been collected through phone interviews with 30 people and will be updated every week .

BIGGEST FEARS

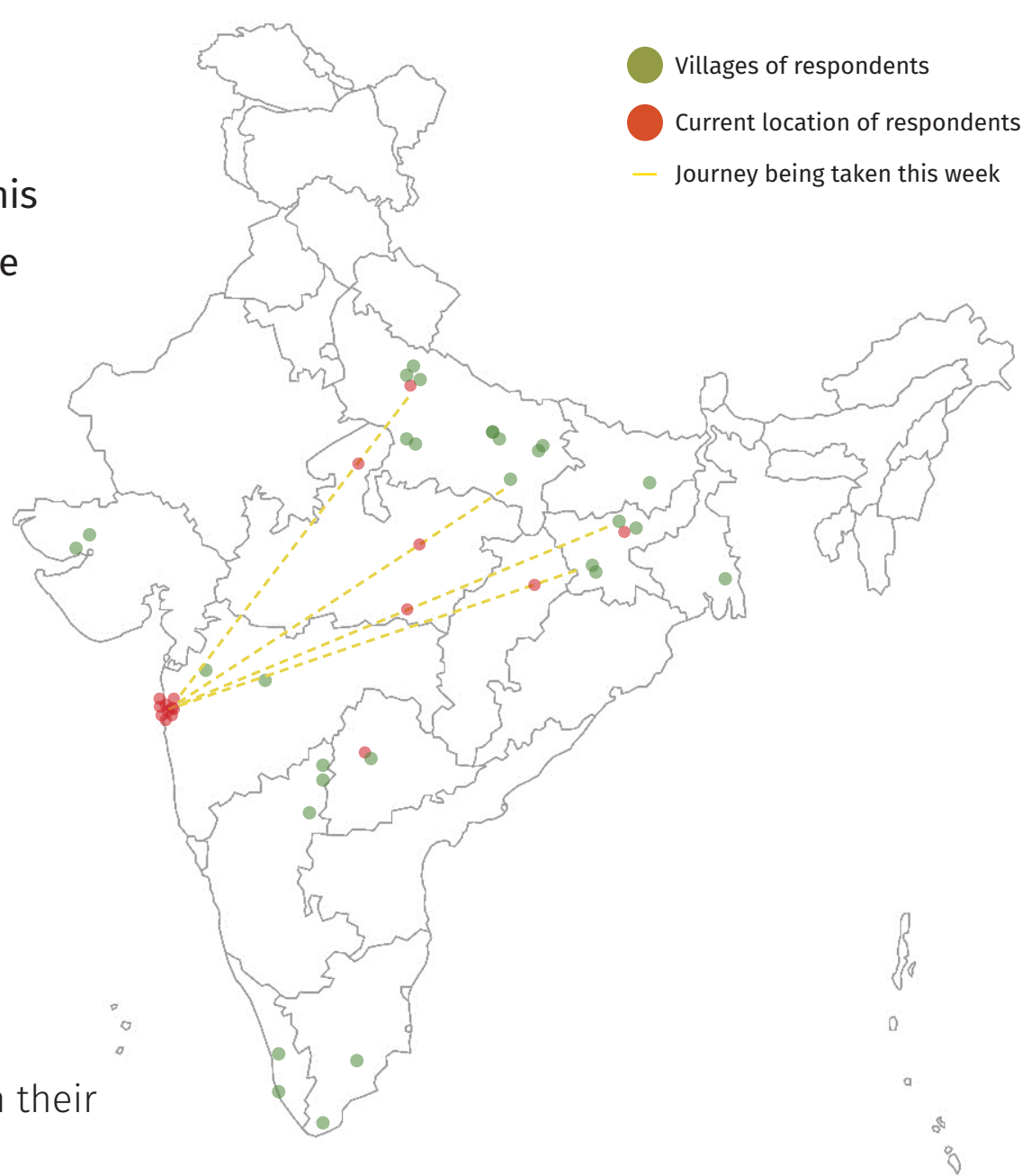
- #1 BEING HUNGRY
- #2 BEING MISDIAGNOSED
- #3 CATCHING COVID-19
- #4 POLICE
- #5 FINANCIAL LOSS

MOBILITY AND MIGRATION



Dharavi locals on the road

A large segment of the Indian urban population have strong connections with their homes and families in the villages. This connection is facilitated by the affordability of the Indian railway services which have come to a standstill in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving many families and workers stranded in a city that is providing them little comfort and security.



90%

Respondents are in touch with their families in the village.

66.7%

Respondents said they would return to their villages right now if given a choice. 20% said they'd prefer to stay.

56.7%

Respondents are currently with their families.

STORIES

What they say

The lockdown has taken a toll on the economy, small businesses having suffered the most. Many small scale entrepreneurs say that it might take at least 6 months to restart the system and get the wheels turning. Many workers will go back to their village as soon as they can leaving little workforce in Dharavi to keep the activity going.

“ Please provide us with some financial help and let us go home in a proper manner ”

- Stuck Migrant Worker

“Why not use ready vacant SRA buildings as quarantine centers rather than spending on building new infrastructure?”

- Community Leader

“We cannot afford to pay bills and taxes and EMIs. Forgive them at least till next year?”

- Small business owner

Wheels in motion

“I had no money to pay for private transport so I cycled for 15 days to reach home.”

Festivities checked

With current restrictions to curb the spread of Corona virus, religious buildings are closed and gatherings are banned. Many migrants are unable to visit their villages to celebrate with their families.

“We won't be celebrating Eid this year. We are fasting and in our daily prayers, we are asking for help and mercy for this world.”

Almost home

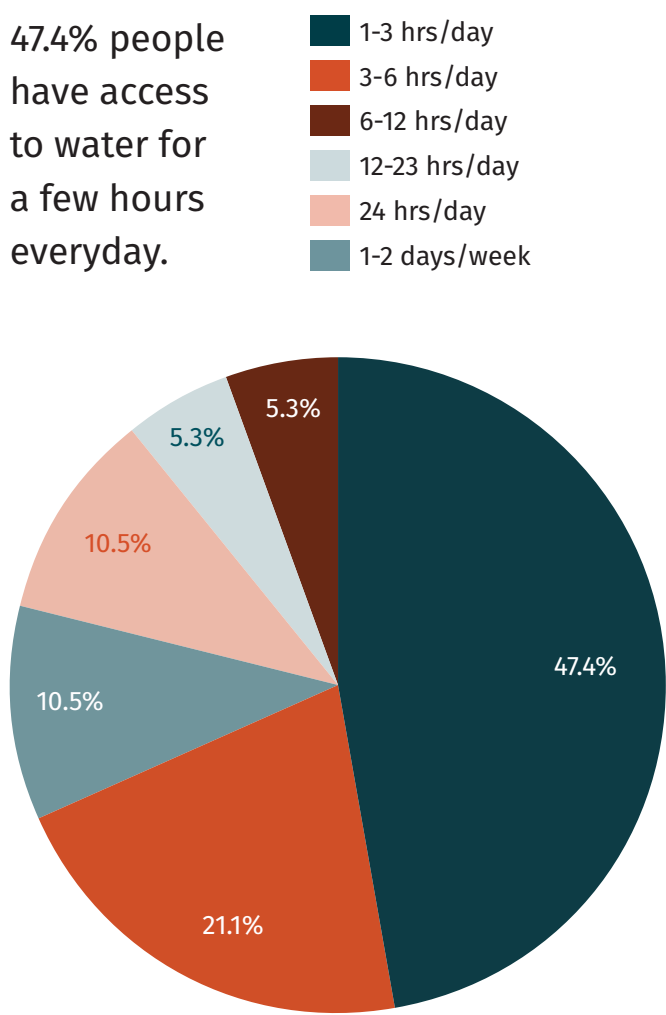
“I am on my way back home. I left Mumbai on Wednesday. This truck driver has charged Rs 4000 each and I am cramped up in this small space with 18 strangers. We are surviving on bananas but it will be all worth it. I will hopefully see my little girl tonight.”

ACCESS TO

The charts laid out below are indications of basic facilities that people have access to as long-term or short-term residents of Dharavi. Of the 30 people who we interviewed in total, 17 were workers, 5 were community leaders and 8 families/ small business owners.

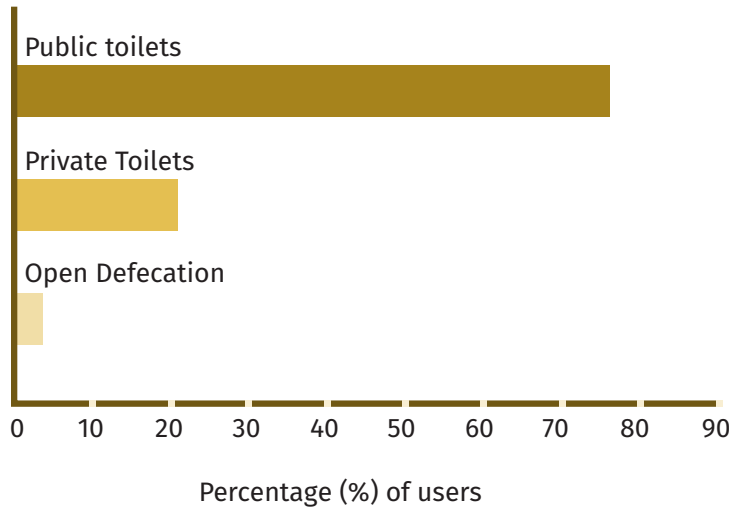
Water

47.4% people have access to water for a few hours everyday.



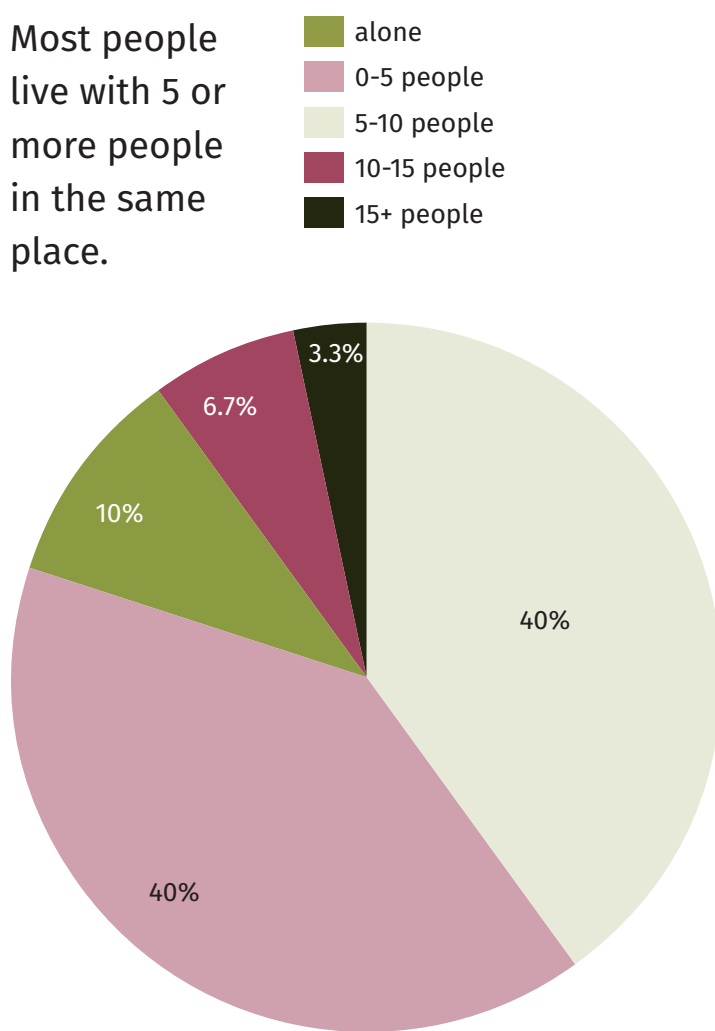
Toilets

The chart below shows what percentages of respondents who use public, private and no toilet respectively



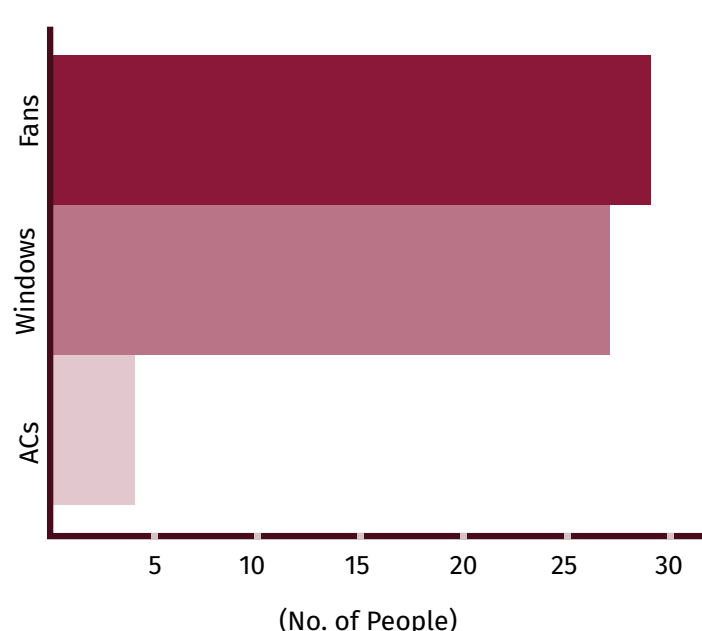
Living space

Most people live with 5 or more people in the same place.



Ventilation

In conversations we found that while most people had fans and windows in their homes; some live in homes of tin walls that have neither. On the other hand a small group of respondents have ACs. The bar chart shows the numbers for each respectively.



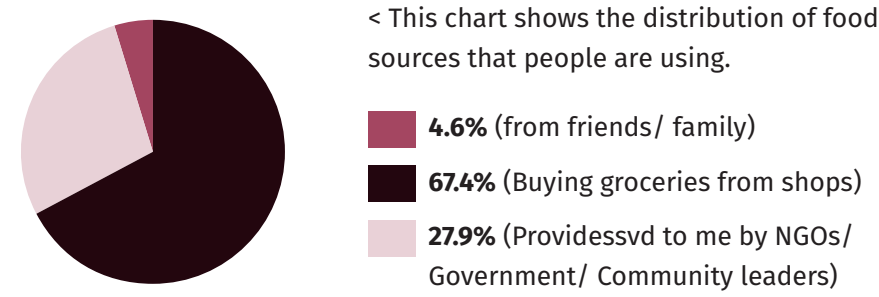
Food

30%

Respondents said they don't have enough food this week.

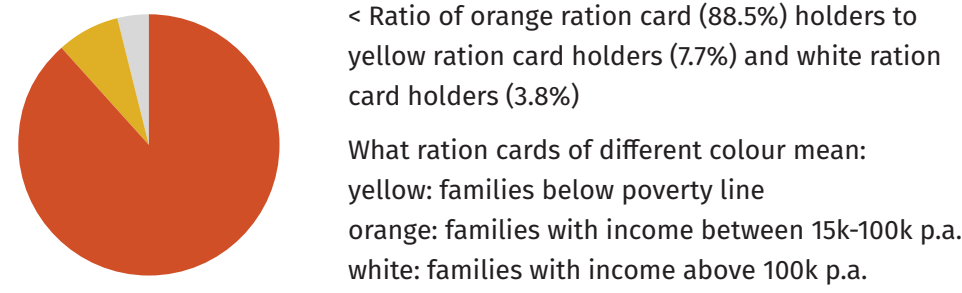
"I am buying food for now but I don't know if I will be able to afford it next month. I only have Rs 2000 in my bank account."

- Daily wage migrant worker



Ration Cards

46% respondents said they have ration cards, 36% said theirs is with a family member who is not with them, 3% said they use another family members card and 13% said they don't have one.



< Ratio of orange ration card (88.5%) holders to yellow ration card holders (7.7%) and white ration card holders (3.8%)
What ration cards of different colour mean:
yellow: families below poverty line
orange: families with income between 15k-100k p.a.
white: families with income above 100k p.a.

Information

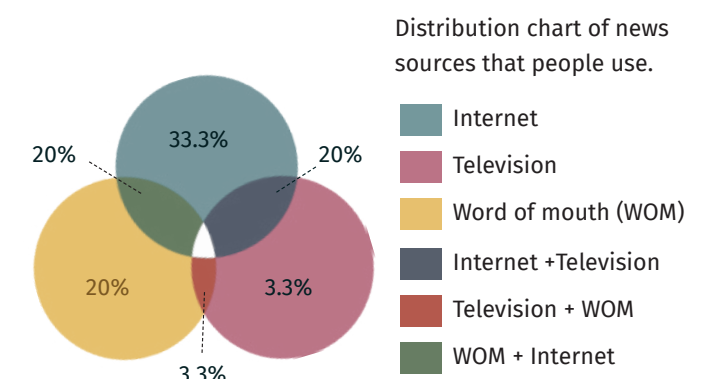
93%

Respondents said they have credit on their prepaid phones at the moment, but many are unsure if they will be able to afford it in the coming weeks.

News

20%

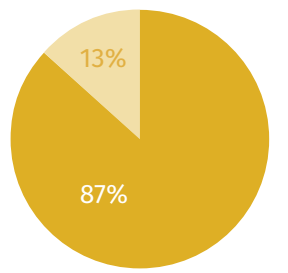
Respondents said they do not have access to news from media sources.



Internet Use

The pie chart on the right shows the percentage of people who said they actively use the internet on their phones.

Use the Internet (13%)
Do not use the Internet (87%)



People receiving food from community leaders.

Many of the workers stuck in Dharavi sleep at their workplace. Ventilation and light is often lacking. The hot and humid summers of Mumbai are adding to their troubles. In some cases, the basic necessities like water and sanitation are not available easily either. Crowded public toilets are also creating fears amongst the people.

In these days of hardship, grassroots community leaders are on the field organizing and distributing food and supplies. Whereas small business owners are taking care of their workers who cannot go home.

"The main reason for the inequity in the distribution is the missing co-ordination between the NGOs - community leaders - government."

- Local Activist