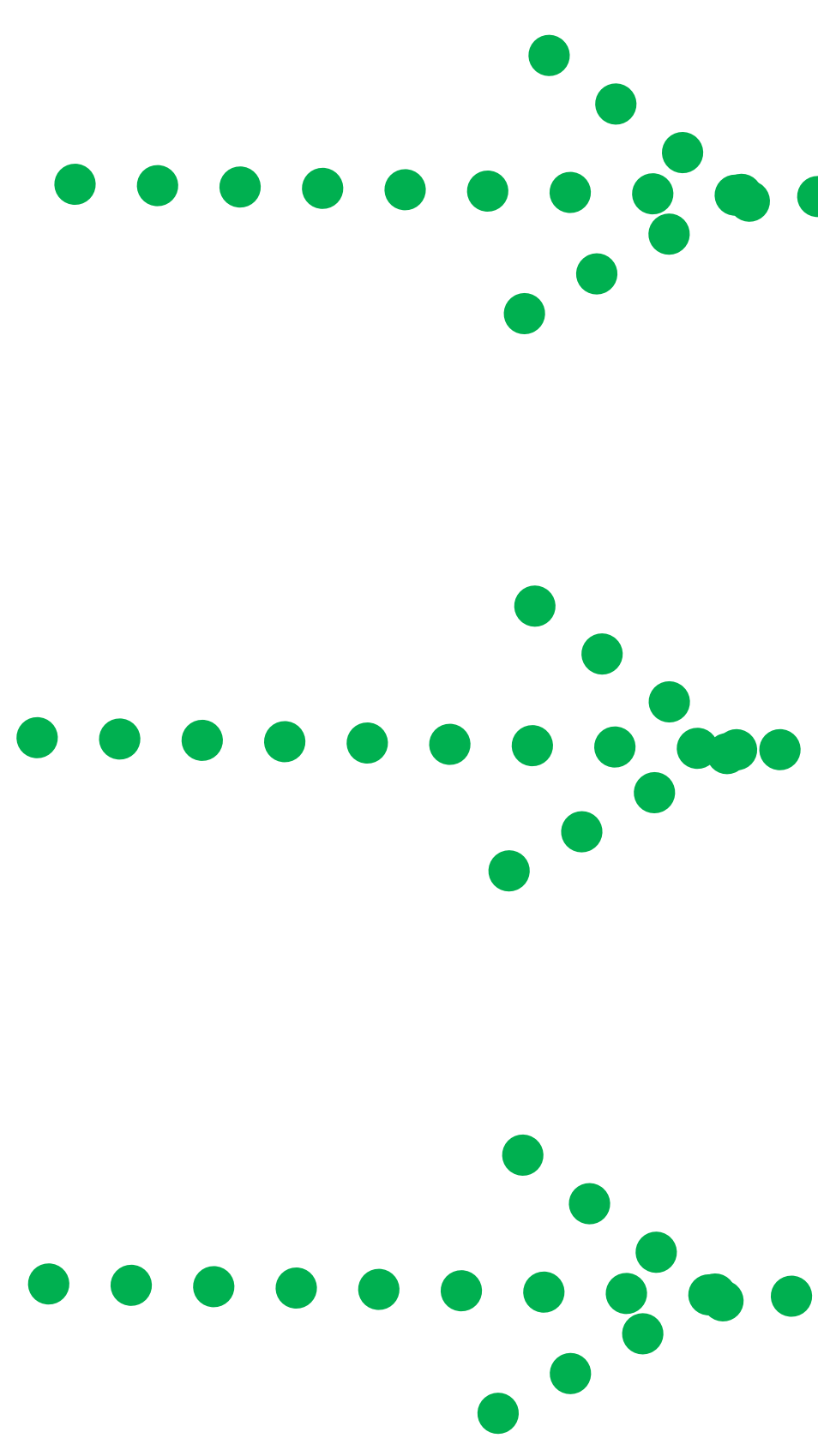


EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON LIVELIHOOD, EMPLOYMENT, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES



About three-fourths of respondents said that their households were majorly impacted (complete loss of income/no employment and/or major reduction in income) by the COVID-19 lockdown.

Daily wage workers, those who owned personal businesses and were involved in private, and contractual jobs were the ones largely impacted by the lockdown.

To reduce economic vulnerabilities at the household level, social protection coverage # must be saturated among the most marginalised households (e.g. low income, low caste, and those whose members lost jobs/income

refer COVID-19 Research Brief-3 of this brief series on Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 and related steps to break the chain of viral transmission led to certain economic challenges that triggered loss in livelihood and income and constraints on financial resources. Often, these effects were disproportionately experienced among the most marginalised.

The key objective of this study is to assess the loss of income, livelihoods and jobs among households in Uttar Pradesh to help programme planning and implementation.

METHODS

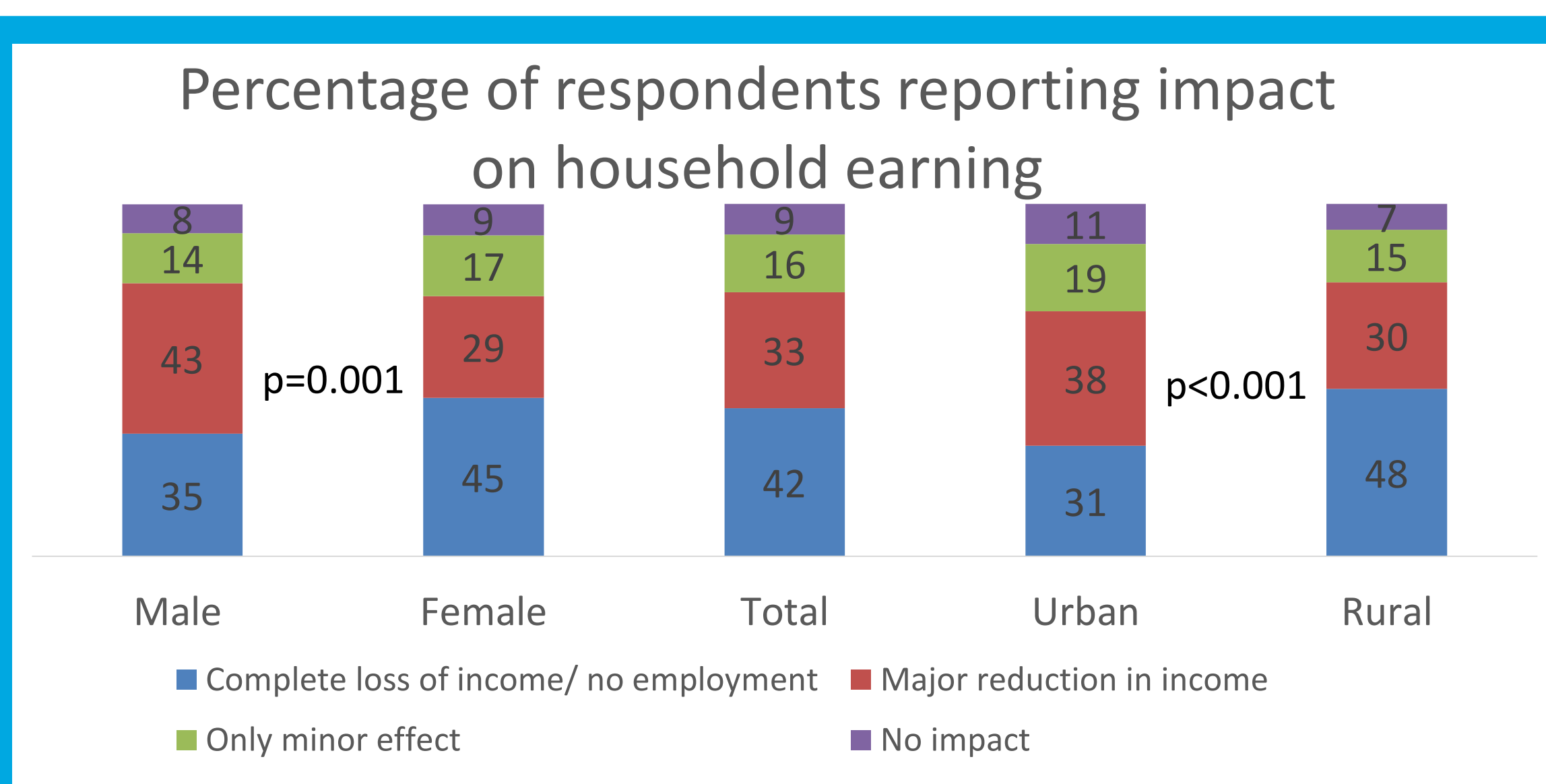
- Data was gathered between 25th May–1st June, 2020 from the existing study cohort of households under the UDAYA (www.projectudaya.in) study.
- Interviews were conducted with a total of 900 participant households of the study.
- Eligibility: Young boys/girls who were UDAYA participants consented to participate in regular surveys.

PROFILE OF STUDY PARTICIPANTS

	N=900 Percent		N=900 Percent
Sex		Place of residence	
Male	30	Urban	34
Female	70	Rural	66
Age		Caste	
18–20 years	28	SC/ST	26
21–25 years	60	OBC	50
>25 years	12	General	24
Education		Religion	
Less than secondary	29	Hindu	77
Secondary and above	71	Muslim	23
Marital status		Standard of living*	
Married	41	Low	23
Unmarried	59	Medium	23
		High	54

*SLI is a tertial measure calculated based on the wealth score of UDAYA wave-1 study. The current sample is a subset with a working mobile phone and consented to be interviewed at this time.

EFFECT ON EARNING



- The proportion of respondents experiencing either major reduction or complete loss of earnings was substantial, irrespective of sex or residence in rural or urban areas. A greater proportion of female participants than male participants reported complete loss of income or no employment during the lockdown.

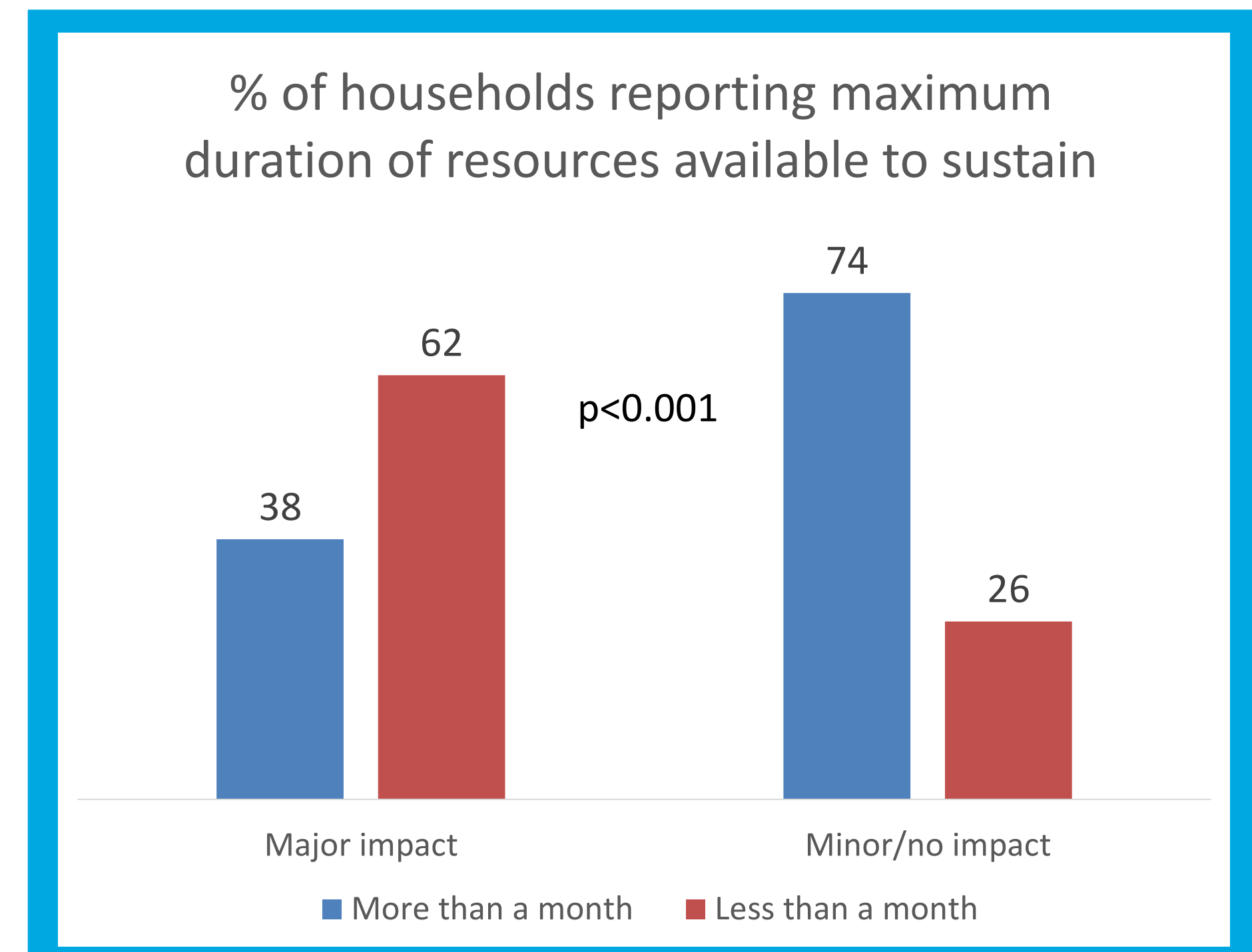
EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Type of jobs/work lost owing to lockdown



- Members of about two-thirds of households (65%, 95% CI: 62%–68%) lost their job/wages because of the lockdown. Over half of those who lost their job/wages were previously working as daily wage workers (57%, 95% CI: 53%–61%), followed by personal businesses (30%, 95% CI: 27%–34%) and private jobs (23%, 95% CI: 20%–27%).
- Respondents from the most marginalised households, i.e. those belonging to SC/ST and low-income households, experienced significant loss of job or wage-earning opportunities due to the lockdown. They also reported that their financial resources were sufficient for less than a month.
- Majority of the households with members who suffered complete loss of income or major reduction in income or loss of job reported that they faced severe constraints on the length of time that their financial resources would last (62%, 95% CI: 58%–65%).

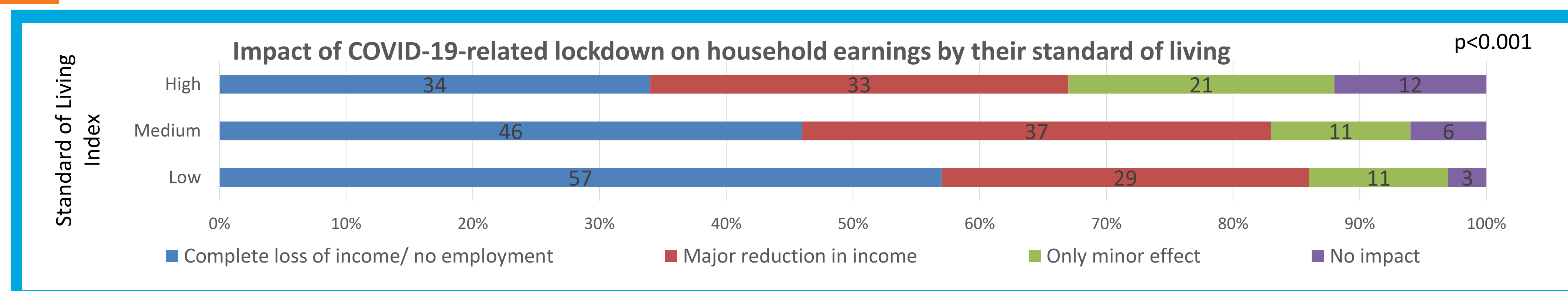
	Lost job/wage-earning opportunities due to lockdown	Resources available for ONLY less than a month
N=900	%(95% CI)	%(95% CI)
Sex		
Male	75 (70-80)	36 (30-42)
Female	61 (57-65)	60 (56-64)
Caste		
ST/SC	76 (60-72)	59 (52-65)
OBC	66 (61-70)	54 (49-58)
General	64 (57-70)	45 (38-51)
Religion		
Hindu	63 (59-66)	49 (45-52)
Muslim	75 (69-81)	68 (61-74)
Education		
Less than secondary	78 (73-83)	66 (60-72)
Secondary and above	60 (57-64)	47 (44-51)
Marital status		
Married	72 (67-76)	61 (56-66)
Unmarried	61 (57-65)	47 (43-51)
Place of residence		
Urban	52 (47-58)	52 (47-58)
Rural	72 (69-76)	53 (49-57)
SLI (standard of living)		
Low	77 (71-82)	62 (55-68)
Medium	72 (66-78)	56 (49-62)
High	58 (53-62)	48 (43-52)
Total	65 (62-68)	53 (50-56)



Note: Major impact is defined as those who lost income (complete loss or major reduction) or those who lost job.

EFFECT ON EARNING (CONTD.)

Complete loss of income has been significantly more among low-income households than middle/high-income households. Close to nine-tenths of low-income households experienced major or complete loss of income as against seven-tenths of high-income households.



LIMITATIONS

Although the study sample is a subset of the state-representative UDAYA SDG cohort of adolescents, the representative nature of the selection could not be retained because of differential phone ownership by adolescents from higher and lower economic strata, mobile number retention/portability, etc. However, the levels noted in the current study on loss of job, income and financial resources perhaps represents as underestimates for general population in the state.

CONTACT INFORMATION

This work was undertaken by Population Council Institute (<https://popcouncilinstitute.org/>). For more information, contact skpatel@popcouncil.org