3 facts on Covid-19 knowledge in rural Raipur, Chhattisgarh

We reached out to female Mor Awaaz enrollees in rural Raipur about their awareness of Covid-19 in two waves: 
**Wave 1:** from April 14 - May 11
**Wave 2:** from May 22 - July 14
This is what we discovered:

**FACT 1: Awareness of main Covid-19 symptoms has improved between waves, but some knowledge gaps still persist.**

- **Dry cough:**
  - Wave 1: 63%
  - Wave 2: 82%
  - Improvement: 19%
- **Fever and chills:**
  - Wave 1: 61%
  - Wave 2: 86%
  - Improvement: 25%
- **Difficulty breathing:**
  - Wave 1: 17%
  - Wave 2: 24%
  - Improvement: 7%
- **Sore throat:**
  - Wave 1: 5%
  - Wave 2: 6%
  - Improvement: 1%

82% can name dry cough and 86% can name fever and chills as symptoms (versus just over 60% in Wave 1).

However, knowledge levels of common symptoms such as difficulty breathing and sore throat are still low. 76% of respondents could not name difficulty breathing as a major symptom for Covid-19.

The percentage of women who are uninformed decreased from 33% in Wave 1 to 10% in Wave 2.

Responses from 2,675 women in Wave 1 and 2,382 women in Wave 2. The sample in Wave 2 has been re-weighted based on the sample in Wave 1. Results account for women’s age and years of education. All responses are unprompted.

**IN OUR SAMPLE...**

**Wave 1:**
- Sample size: 2,675 women
- GPs: 179
- Average age: 41
- Average years of schooling: 4
- 61% worked for NREGA between July 2018 - October 2019
- 62% are members of SHGs
- 33% have a child under 6 years in the household

**Wave 2:**
- Sample size: 2,382 women
- GPs: 212
- Average age: 39
- Average years of schooling: 4.2
- 62% worked for NREGA between July 2018 - October 2019
- 62% are members of SHGs
- 25% have a child under 6 years in the household
Covid-19 and ASHA workers

We reached out to 47 ASHA workers in 41 GPs during wave 1.*

Average age: 42
91.5% completed at least 1 year of schooling
89% are members of SHGS

60% worked for NREGA between July 2018–October 2019
34% have a child under 6 years in the household

*Because of the small sample size, we caution against drawing broad conclusions from the data.

FACT 2: ASHA workers are better informed of Covid-19 symptoms compared to other women.

ASHA workers are less likely to report not knowing any symptoms. However, knowledge gaps still exist for less common symptoms like difficulty breathing.

FACT 3: ASHA workers are also better informed about reasons for Covid-19 spread compared to other women.

ASHA workers are less likely to report not knowing any reasons for spread. However, knowledge gaps still exist for less common reasons like being in crowded places and through air.

Awareness of top 3 Covid-19 symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>ASHA workers</th>
<th>Non-ASHA workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever and chills</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry cough</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty breathing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know any symptoms</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awareness of reasons for Covid-19 spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>ASHA workers</th>
<th>Non-ASHA workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact with infected people</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with infected surfaces</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being in crowded places with infected people</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through air</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know any reasons</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses from 1,438 women from Wave 1.

Lessons and Policy Recommendations

1. ASHA workers know more about Covid-19 symptoms and reasons for spread than non-ASHA workers: ASHA workers should be encouraged to share their Covid-19 related knowledge into their community.

2. However, ASHA workers still have knowledge gaps: It is important to find ways to further improve their awareness about Covid-19 symptoms and prevention, especially through official channels.

Mor Awaaz is a phone-based service for women, developed by a team of researchers from Yale University, Harvard University, University of Warwick, University of Southern California and Duke University, as well as EPoD India at LEAD.

Its mission is to empower women as changemakers in their homes and communities by creating a dynamic information-sharing loop between women and the state government. To learn more, please contact morawaaz@gmail.com.