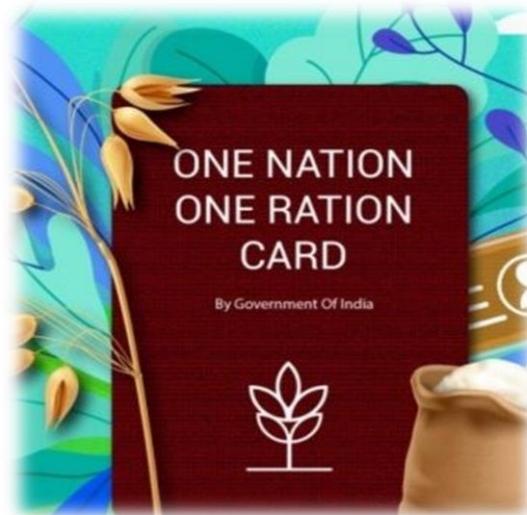


GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY



A Survey report on the outreach of **ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD** Scheme in the UT of Puducherry

Government of Puducherry
புதுச்சேரி அரசு
Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
குடிசெய்துறை மற்றும் அடிப்படை விவகாரங்கள் துறை

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JULY 2022

A survey on outreach of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme in the UT of Puducherry

Introduction

The prime Objective of the ONORC scheme is to provide an option to all eligible ration card holders/beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act to access their entitlements from anywhere in the country. The scheme is of benefit to the Migrant Population who has migrated for the purpose of Employment, Education etc. to other regions apart from their home town where they have a valid ration card. As per the scheme, in the UT of Puducherry, the migrant workers, who are working in Puducherry and do not possess Ration Card of Government of Puducherry, shall get the cash equivalent of their food grains in their bank account. The remaining members in the Ration Card of the migrant workers can avail their entitled food grains in their home town. The UT of Puducherry has experienced increased flow of migrant workers in the recent past. The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry has found that there is meagre response to avail the benefit by the beneficiaries in Puducherry. Hence, the Department has entrusted the Directorate of Economics and Statistics Puducherry with the work of ascertaining the reasons for non-utilization of the scheme by the eligible beneficiaries.

Objectives of the Survey

The broad objectives of the survey are as follows :

- ✓ To Identify the migrant beneficiaries covered under NFSA.
- ✓ To ascertain the beneficiary's awareness of ONORC scheme
- ✓ To access the status of availing of the scheme.
- ✓ To ascertain his/her willingness to avail the scheme after creating awareness of the scheme.
- ✓ To study the beneficiary's cognizance on the toll free number 14445 and Mera-Ration App.

“Hassel free delivery of subsidized food grains/cash equivalent to migrant beneficiary anywhere in the country ” ONORC

Population of the Survey

All Migrant workers who are residing in Puducherry and eligible for availing ONORC Scheme.

Unit of the Survey

A Migrant worker who is residing in Puducherry and in possession of a valid ration card covered under NFSA issued by any State/UT in India other than of the Government of Puducherry.

Sample for the Survey

For the purpose of the survey, a sample of 820 migrant workers, of which 600 are from Puducherry and 220 from Karaikal Region respectively, was selected as a representative sample for all migrant workers in Puducherry.

Tool for the Survey

A questionnaire was designed and a pilot study was done by enumerating 50 Migrant workers in Puducherry. Based on the pilot study, a rationalized questionnaire was developed and utilized for enumeration. A google form was also designed based on the questionnaire for recording the information collected from the respondents.

Sampling techniques

Two types of sampling techniques were used, first stratified random sampling and second purposive sampling. The region was divided into two strata viz., Urban and Rural. The shops and establishments in each stratum were selected at random. The respondent in the selected establishment or shop is selected purposively based on the criteria that the he/she is a migrant who possess a ration card issued outside UT of Puducherry and eligible to avail ONORC Scheme.

Methodology

Data collection: The enumeration was done by canvassing the questionnaire designed for the purpose to each identified respondent who possess a ration card issued by other states. The responses were recorded through a Google form. The respondents who were not aware of the scheme were given a basic insight of the scheme (*Question No. 18 Annexure*) and then their opinion is sought and recorded.

Period of Survey: The field work was done in two stages (ie.) in the first stage a pilot study was done to finalise the questionnaire to be used in the survey. On rationalizing the questionnaire, the second stage of the field work was done from 15th May 2022 to 14th June 2022.

Data Tables

Around 823 samples were collected of which 600 are from Puducherry and 223 are from Karaikal region. After scrutiny three samples with incomplete response were removed and 820 samples were utilized for tabulation and analysis

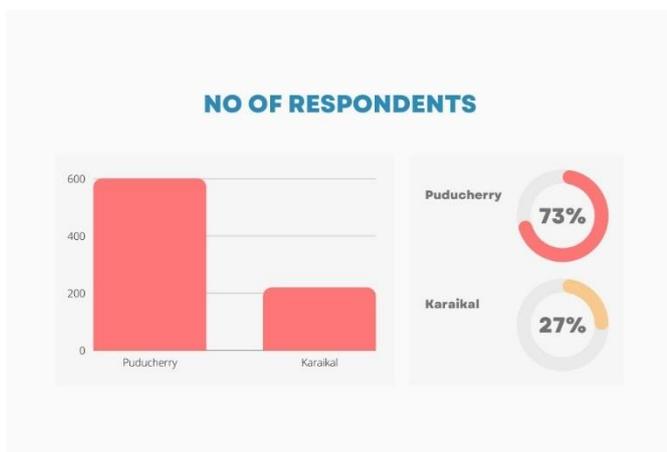
Region wise number of observations

Region	Number of Respondents
Puducherry	600
Karaikal	220
Total	820

Source: DES, Puducherry

Type of locality wise number of observations

Type of locality	Number of Respondents
Urban	341
Rural	479
Total	820



A total of 820 responses were collected of which 73 percent respondents are from Puducherry and 27 percent of respondents are from Karaikal. The percentage of Urban and Rural respondents covered are 42 and 58 respectively.

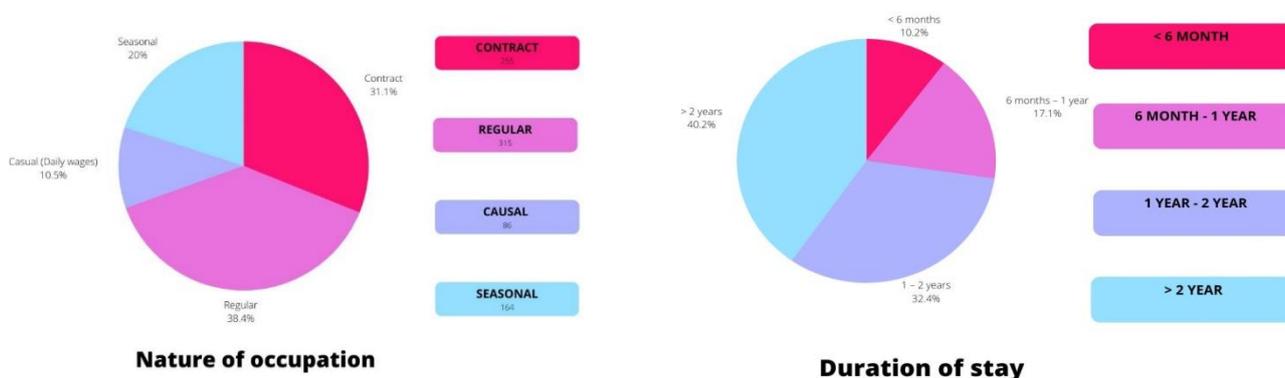
Based on Nature of Occupation

Nature of Occupation	Number of Respondents
Contract	255
Regular	315
Casual (Daily wages)	86
Seasonal	164
Total	820

Based on Duration of Stay

Duration of Stay	Number of Respondents
< 6 months	84
6 months – 1 year	140
1 – 2 years	266
> 2 years	330
Total	820

Source: DES, Puducherry



Of the total respondent, 31 percent are on Contract basis, 38 percent are on Regular basis, 11 percent are daily wage earners and 20 percent are seasonal labourers. Regarding the duration of stay, 10 percent are less than 6 months, 17 percent are 6 months to one year, 33 percent one to two years and 40 percent more than two years.

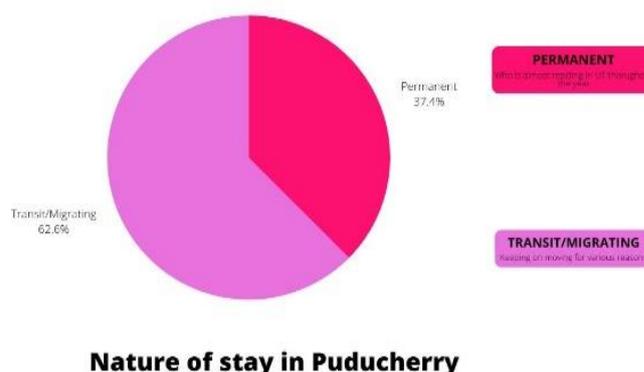
Home State of the Respondent

Nature of Occupation	Number of Respondents
Odisha	338
Bihar	234
Uttar Pradesh	89
West Bengal	82
Tamil Nadu	28
Jharkhand	23
Others	26
Total	820

Of the total respondent, 41 percent were from the state of Odisha, 29 percent from Bihar, 11 percent from Uttar Pradesh, 10 percent from West Bengal and the rest 3 percent each from Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and others.

Based on Nature of stay

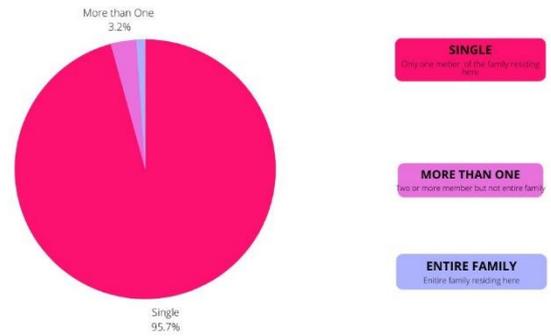
Nature of Stay	Number of Respondents
Permanent	307
Transit/Migrating	513
Total	820



Of the total respondents, 63 percent have informed that they are in transit and the remaining 37 percent said that they almost stay permanently in Puducherry.

Based on Number of family Members residing in Puducherry

No. of family members	Number of Respondents
Single	785
More than one member	9
Entire Family	26
Total	820



Members residing in Puducherry

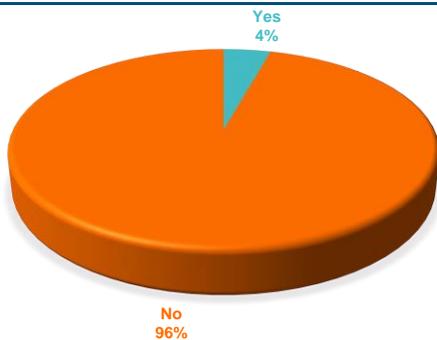
Source: DES, Puducherry

From the total sample enumerated, it is found that around 96 percent of the respondents had come as a single person and only the remaining 4 percent more than one member or the entire family have come to Puducherry.

Based on awareness of the scheme

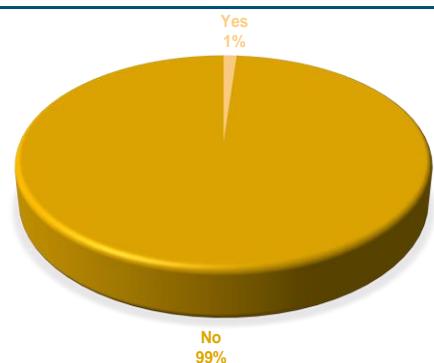
Aware of the scheme	Number of Respondents
Yes	35
No	785
Total	820

Source: DES, Puducherry



Based on the awareness of App and toll free

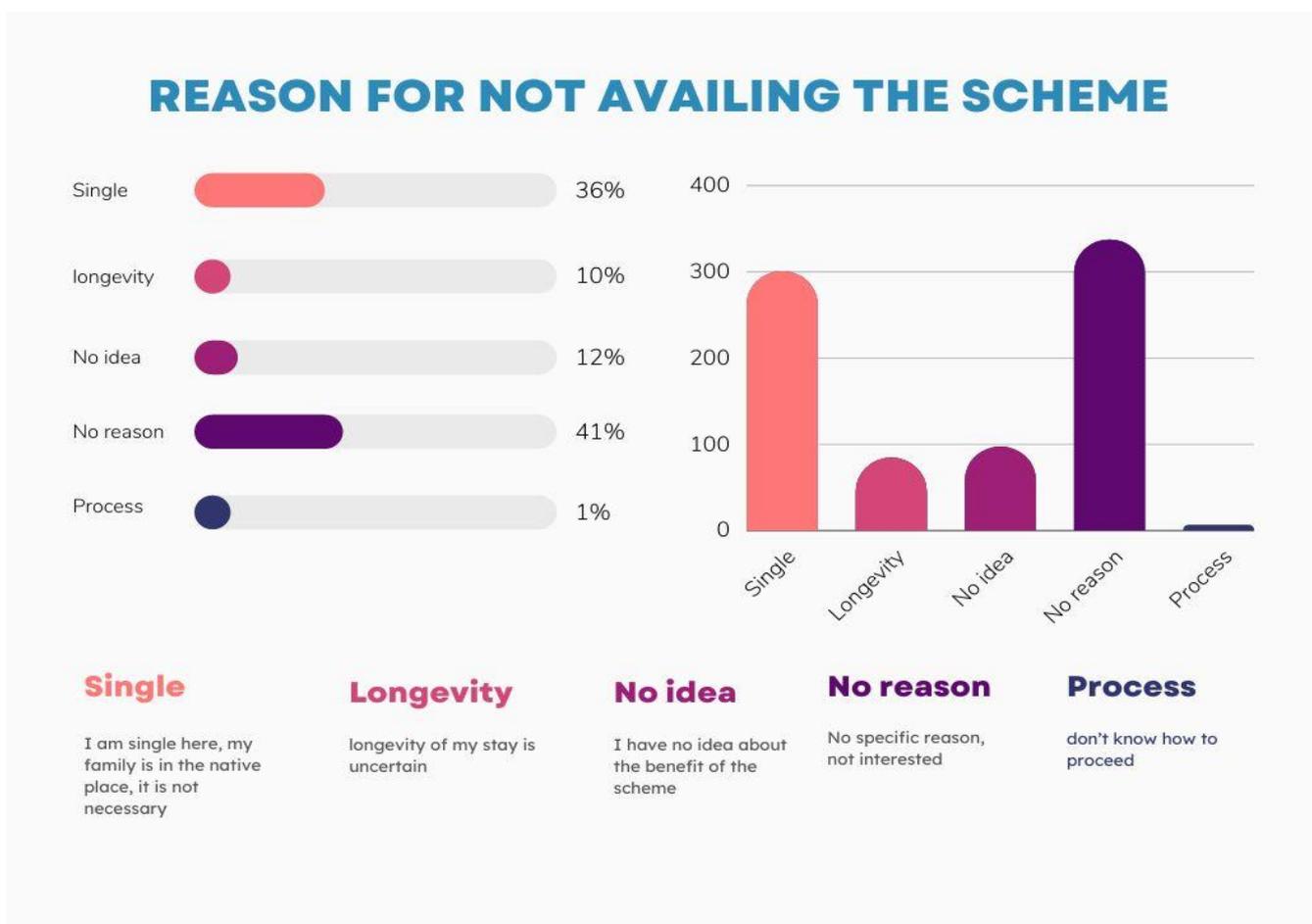
Aware of the App	Number of Respondents
Yes	10
No	810
Total	820



As for the scheme is concerned, it is found that about 96 percent of the sample reported that they are not aware of the scheme and with respect to the mobile app or toll free number 99 percent of the respondent are not aware of it.

Reason for not availing the scheme

Reason	Number of Respondents
I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary	300
longevity of my stay is uncertain	83
I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme	96
No specific reason, not interested	336
don't know how to proceed	5
Total	820

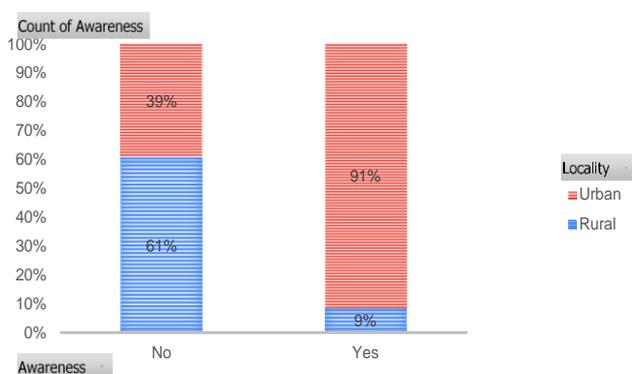


About 41 percent of the respondents have informed that there is no specific reason for not utilizing the scheme which synonyms with No idea about the scheme which is 12 percent. 36 percent have informed that their entire family is in the home town and being single here feels no need for utilizing the scheme. 10 percent informed that the duration of their stay is uncertain and hence not interested in the scheme. Only one percent have informed that they don't know how to proceed.

Analysis

Awareness of the scheme Vs Locality of the respondent

Locality	Awareness		Grand Total
	No	Yes	
Rural	476	3	479
Urban	309	32	341
Grand Total	785	35	820



✓ Of the total respondent who said they are aware of the scheme 91 percent are from Urban area and 9 percent are from Rural area .

✓ From the respondent who are not aware of the scheme 61 percent are from Rural area and 39 percent from Urban area

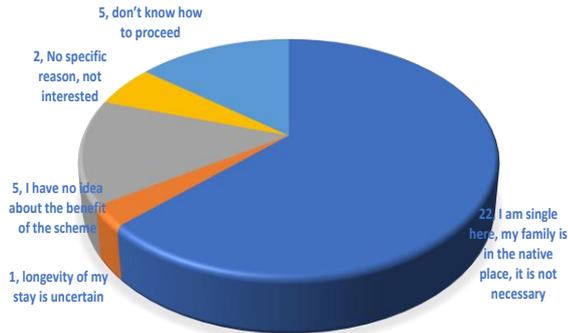
Awareness of the scheme and reason for not availing

Out of 820 respondents 35 were aware of the scheme and 785 respondents were not aware of the scheme. Of this 35 respondents who were aware of the scheme 22 responded that they are single here and hence don't want to avail. 5 have said that they don't know how to proceed and 2 respondents did not have any specific reason.

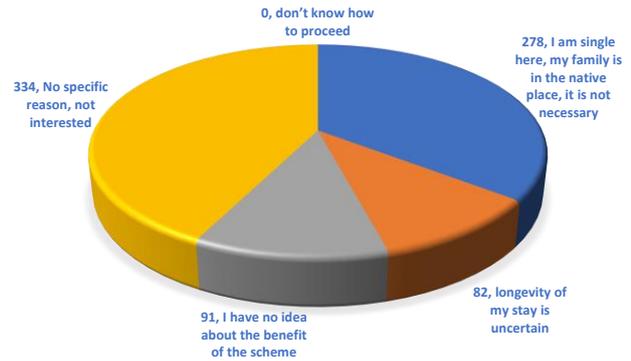
To those 785 respondents who were not aware of the scheme the enumerator briefly gave the objective of the scheme as, "One Nation One Ration card facilitates migrant members to avail cash equivalent of his/her ration of food grains in his bank account without affecting other members benefits." (*Question No. 18 of the survey questionnaire*). Those respondents were then asked about their willingness to avail this scheme. The respondents who have said "Not willing" were again requested to give reason for not willing to availing the scheme. 334 respondents have said that they are not interested, without any specific reason and 91 have said that they need to know more about the benefit of the scheme. This shows that both the type of

respondents need further sensitization on the scheme. Further 278 respondents have said that they are single here and hence not interested in the scheme. 82 respondents have said that they do not know how long they are going to stay here.

Aware of the scheme



Not aware of the scheme

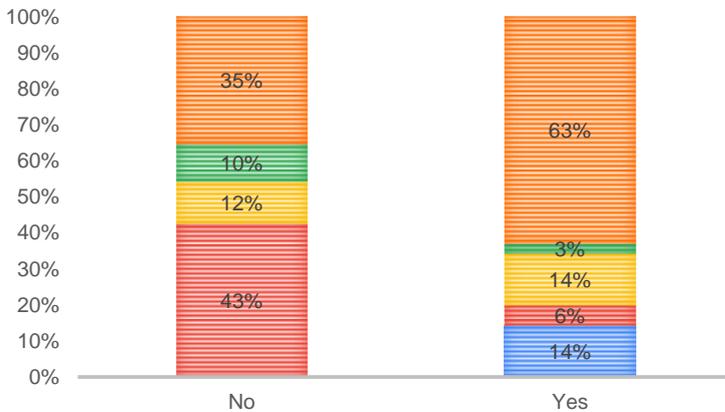


Reason for not Availing

- I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary*
- longevity of my stay is uncertain*
- I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme*
- No specific reason, not interested*
- don't know how to proceed*

	Awareness		
	No	Yes	Grand Total
<i>I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary</i>	278	22	300
<i>longevity of my stay is uncertain</i>	82	1	83
<i>I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme</i>	91	5	96
<i>No specific reason, not interested</i>	334	2	336
<i>don't know how to proceed</i>		5	5
Grand Total	785	35	820

Count of Reason



Reason

- I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary
- longevity of my stay is uncertain
- I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme
- No specific reason, not interested
- dont know how to proceed

Awareness

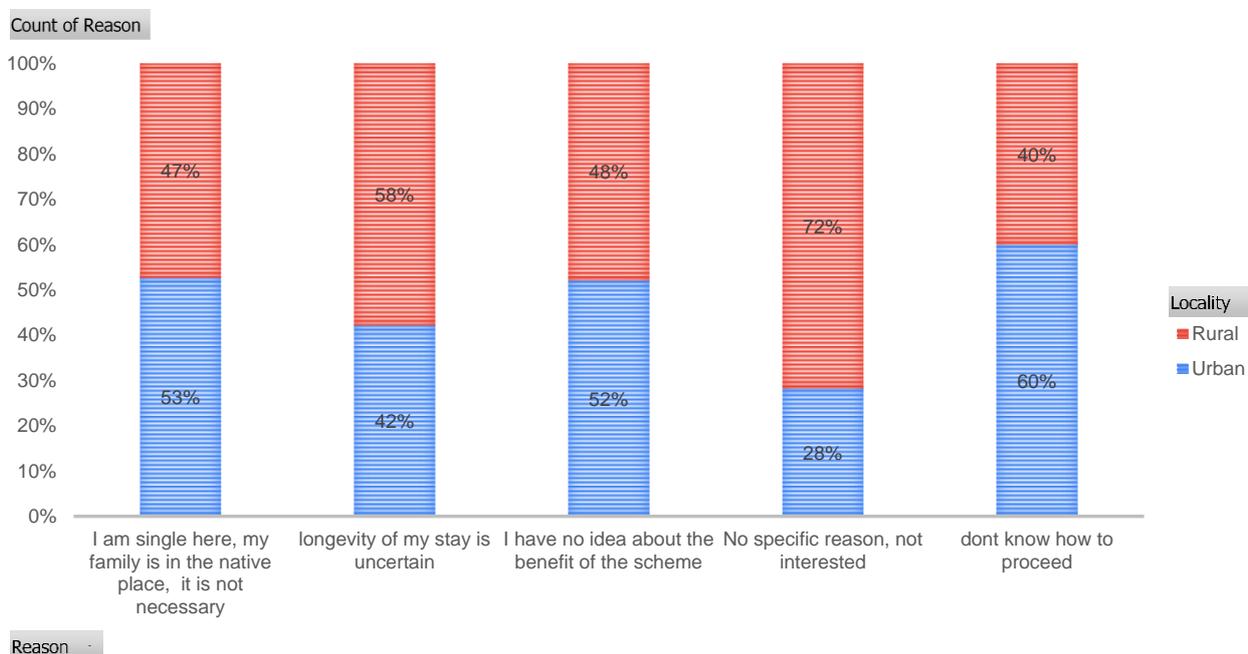
- ✓ Those respondents who said “don’t know how to proceed” are all aware of the scheme.
- ✓ The respondents who said “I am single... it is not necessary” are 63 percent of those who are aware of the scheme and 35 per cent of those who are not aware of the scheme.
- ✓ 14 percent of those who are aware of the scheme and 12 percent of those who are not aware of the scheme has said that they have no idea about the scheme.
- ✓ The respondent who are uncertain about the longevity of their stay, only three percent are from aware group and 10 percent are from not aware group.
- ✓ 43 percent of those who are not aware of the scheme and 6 percent of the those who are aware of the scheme has said that they have No specific reason

Reason for not availing and locality of residence

Reason for not availing

I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary
longevity of my stay is uncertain
I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme
No specific reason, not interested
dont know how to proceed

	Locality		Grand Total
	Rural	Urban	
<i>I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary</i>	142	158	300
<i>longevity of my stay is uncertain</i>	48	35	83
<i>I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme</i>	46	50	96
<i>No specific reason, not interested</i>	241	95	336
<i>dont know how to proceed</i>	2	3	5
Grand Total	479	341	820

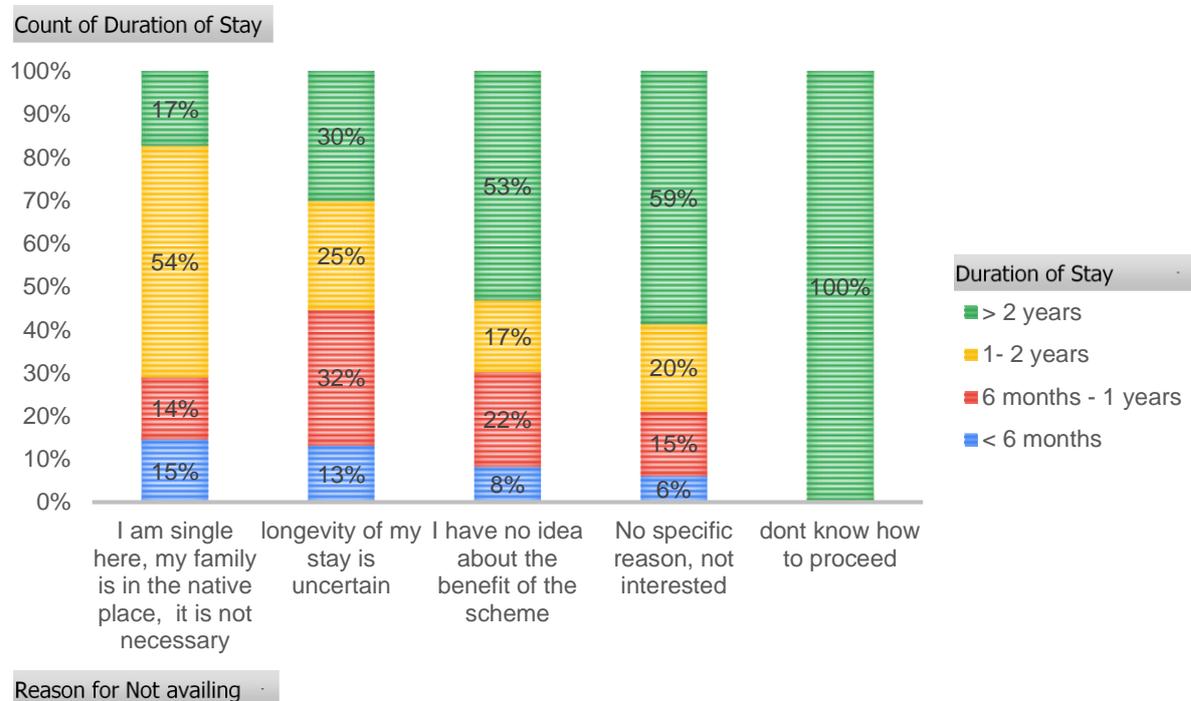


- ✓ Almost all reasons provided by the respondents, do not have much difference based on locality except for the reason “No specific reason, not interested”.
- ✓ Most of the respondents residing in rural areas have said that they have no specific reason for not availing the scheme which means that they are totally unaware of the scheme.

Reason for not availing and Duration of stay

Reason for not availing	Duration of stay				Grand Total
	< 6 m	6 m - 1 y	1- 2 y	> 2 y	
<i>I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary</i>	44	43	161	52	300
<i>longevity of my stay is uncertain</i>	11	26	21	25	83
<i>I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme</i>	8	21	16	51	96
<i>No specific reason, not interested</i>	21	50	68	197	336
<i>don't know how to proceed</i>				5	5
Grand Total	84	140	266	330	820

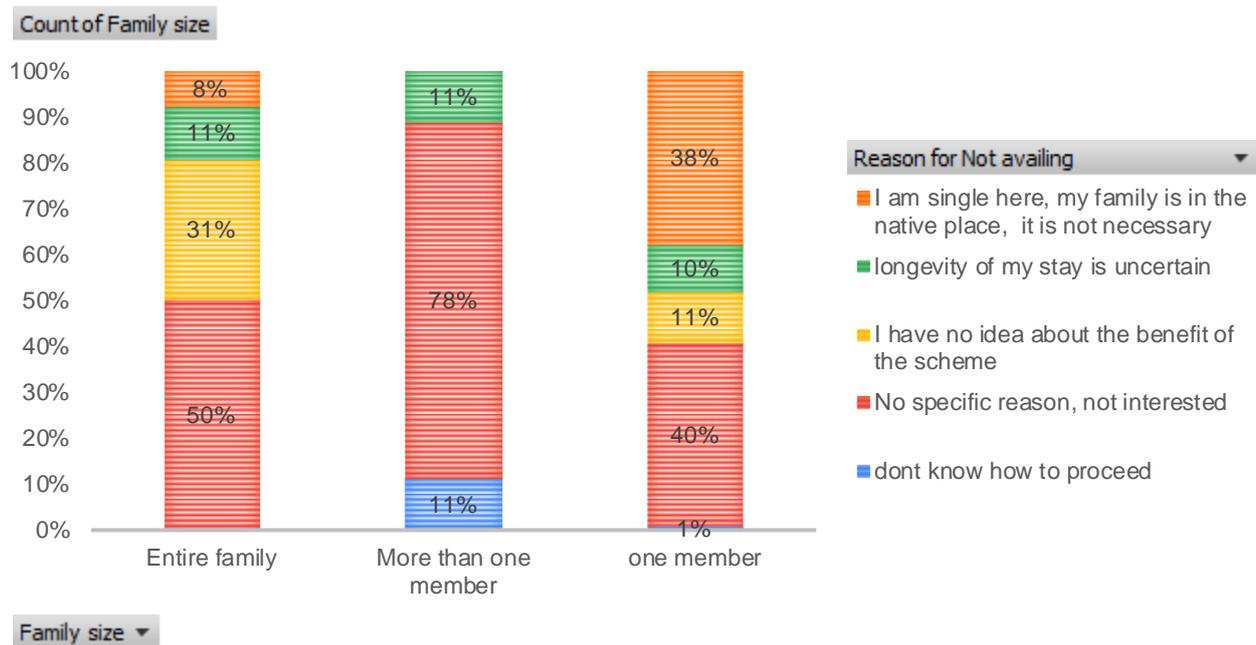
m= months, y- years



- ✓ 100 percent of the people who said don't know how to proceed are staying here for more than 2 years.
- ✓ 54 percent of the people who are staying here between 1-2 years have said that they are single here and hence not interested in the benefit.
- ✓ Around 59 percent of the people who are staying more than 2 years have said that they have no specific reason and simply not interested
- ✓ About 53 percent of the people who are staying more than 2 years are saying that I have no idea about the scheme.
- ✓ In general 79 percent of the people who are staying here for more than 1 year (ie, 1-2 years and more than 2 years) have no specific reason for not availing the scheme.

Reason for not availing and Family size residing in Puducherry

Reason for not availing	Family Size			Grand Total
	Entire family	> one	one	
<i>I am single here, my family is in the native place, it is not necessary</i>	2		298	300
<i>longevity of my stay is uncertain</i>	3	1	79	83
<i>I have no idea about the benefit of the scheme</i>	8		88	96
<i>No specific reason, not interested</i>	13	7	316	336
<i>dont know how to proceed</i>		1	4	5
Grand Total	26	9	785	820



- ✓ 50 percent of entire family member staying here have no specific reason for not availing the scheme, but they fear about renewing back at their home town.
- ✓ 78 percent of more than one-member staying have not specific reason for not availing the scheme.
- ✓ 38 percent of the single member are not availing the scheme because their family is not residing here.
- ✓ 40 percent of the single member have no specific reason for not availing the scheme.

Summary of the Observations

- ✓ On observing the data on longevity of stay, the workers staying for more than 1 years are not willing to undertake the scheme for the reason that they had fear on re-registration/resumption in their home state after return.
- ✓ On seeing the nature of the stay of worker in Puducherry, majority number of workers comes under Transit/migrating category, hence they are not willing to take part as they may go back to their original place at any point of time, and hence they do not want to utilize the scheme.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that Major number of workers mainly came from Odisha-338, UP-89, West Bengal-84, Tamil Nadu-28 and Jorkand-22. 90 per cent of the them felt that it is difficult to resume their supply in their home state.
- ✓ Most of single member who are residing here are not willing to avail One Nation One Ration Card Scheme with hesitation that their name in their native state might be left out permanently or they may lose other government facilities.
- ✓ On observing the awareness of the scheme among the workers, those who aware of the scheme, were not willing to avail the scheme for most of them are single here or don't know how to proceed or feeling the process is tedious
- ✓ Respondents also have a concern that their family may lose any other benefit if he/she avails this scheme.
- ✓ They have the fear of the outcomes (like renewal back in-home state etc.,) once they leave Puducherry.
- ✓ The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has also has its impact on the availing of the scheme, since most of the respondents feel that amount is very meagre per unit.
- ✓ Regarding the knowledge the Mera Ration App and toll free number 14445 the awareness is zero percent, ie., almost NIL.

General Recommendations

- ✓ Awareness of the scheme has a major impact on the availing of the scheme and hence a systematic awareness campaign may be conducted. This may remove the fear factor of the beneficiaries on all grounds.
- ✓ Industrial workers are the high priority group and hence a focused awareness campaign focusing on the industrial workers may be organized.
- ✓ Rural areas may be given high-priority as the awareness is less when compared to Urban areas.
- ✓ The window period required for registering/ deregistering from the scheme may be reduced so that the beneficiaries on transit/ migration may come forward to avail the scheme.
- ✓ Direct Benefit transfer doesn't seem to go well with beneficiaries hence alternate ways may be explored.
- ✓ A brochure on the complete process may be prepared in Tamil/English/Hindi languages and circulated among the industrial workers.
- ✓ Resuming their ration at their home state should be made simple and easier and Government should ensure that they don't lose any other benefits than availing ration.

Conclusion

ONORC has several benefits by allowing choice to a ration card holder to avail his ration from anywhere in the country. Puducherry is the region in which the scheme will be of more use to interstate migrants than the intra state migrants. While there are more benefits harnessed with scheme, critical gap still remains to be addressed. The gap includes the lack of beneficiary's awareness on how to proceed further, benefits etc. By bridging the gap, the ambitious promise delivered by ONORC will be fulfilled. On the supply side an alternative to DBT and reduction of window period may be examined which will increase the demand for the scheme. Once the migrant worker residing here withdraws from here, automatically his name should be resumed in his home state family card. If it is automatically done, then the scheme will attract more migrant workers.