Job crisis hammers urban poor

Poorer respondents saw a bigger income drop during covid, and are less hopeful about future, the latest YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey shows

Over the past few months, several millionaires and high-income categories have been hit hard across the country. But data from the latest YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennials Survey — conducted online in November suggest that the job market continues to recover from the pandemic shock.

The survey shows that younger workers were hit the hardest by the spate of layoffs that occurred in the wake of the pandemic-induced lockdown. But those who lost their jobs found it more difficult to find their way back on to the job market and expressed greater despondency about job prospects in the future.

47% of millennials and post-millennials have lost their jobs since the coronavirus outbreak. Among the two, post-millennials, age 24-39 years now, those born between 1981 and 1996, it’s more difficult to find a job as they are more optimistic about job prospects in the future.

In the previous round of the survey, held in October-November 2020, this share was 22%. Two-thirds of millennials and post-millennials said it was difficult to find a job nowadays, whereas less than half of the pre-millennials said finding a job nowadays was difficult.

The urban poor faced the brunt of job losses during the pandemic and saw their income plunge the most. Those without a professional degree fared the worst. Among those who earn less than 12,000/month ($840) without professional university degrees, the shock was highest.

The survey was conducted jointly by YouGov and the Centre for Public Research. The survey covered 9,839 respondents across 203 cities.

The YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey covered 3,335 respondents aged between 20 and 29 years and 3,212 respondents aged between 30 to 39 years. The sample was selected randomly using YouGov’s random digit dialing.

9,839 respondents were surveyed for the latest round of the survey, held in October-November 2020. Unlike last year, the latest round of the survey conducted online. Findings based on a sub-sample of 3,335 and 3,212 responses, respectively.

Considers respondents of only those who are active in the job market (responses of students, retired individuals and homemakers have been excluded). Findings based on a sub-sample of 6,599 responses.

The survey shows that, compared to pre-millennials, three-fourths of post-millennials referred to as the post-millennials, are more likely to be in the highest income brackets. The richer you are, the more optimistic you are about your income increasing a year from now but less likely to be in the highest income brackets.

The tourism sector that employs young workers, such as baristas, retail clerks, and delivery drivers, has fared the worst. Among those who earn less than 12,000/month ($840) without professional university degrees, the shock was highest.

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