

Holes in the Social Security Net

Why in news?

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A survey is conducted seeking evidence on whether the social security measures work in the face an economic shock like demonetisation and whether these programmes themselves face disruption because of demonetisation.

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What are the findings of the survey?

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- On and average, people visited the bank thrice since demonetisation. 30% had made more than three visits.

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- 10% of respondents had not gone to the bank even once showing that they are out of the formal economy.

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- People viewed demonetisation as a disruptive measure which impacted access to social security.

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- First, it was a push from post office to bank account, then to open multiple bank accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts, then to get an Aadhaar card, an ATM card and so on.

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- And there is the mandatory introduction of Aadhaar to access MGNREGS work from the next financial year, which has ridden roughshod over the orders of the Supreme Court and is likely to cause massive exclusion.

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- Only 30% of those who went to the bank were able to receive their pension or wages. About 57% were denied them at least once.

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- 73% of MGNREGS households and about 52% of pensioners said they had a greater need for these entitlements after demonetisation.

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Source: The Indian Express

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