



**NO MASK, NO ENTRY
BUT TILL WHEN?**

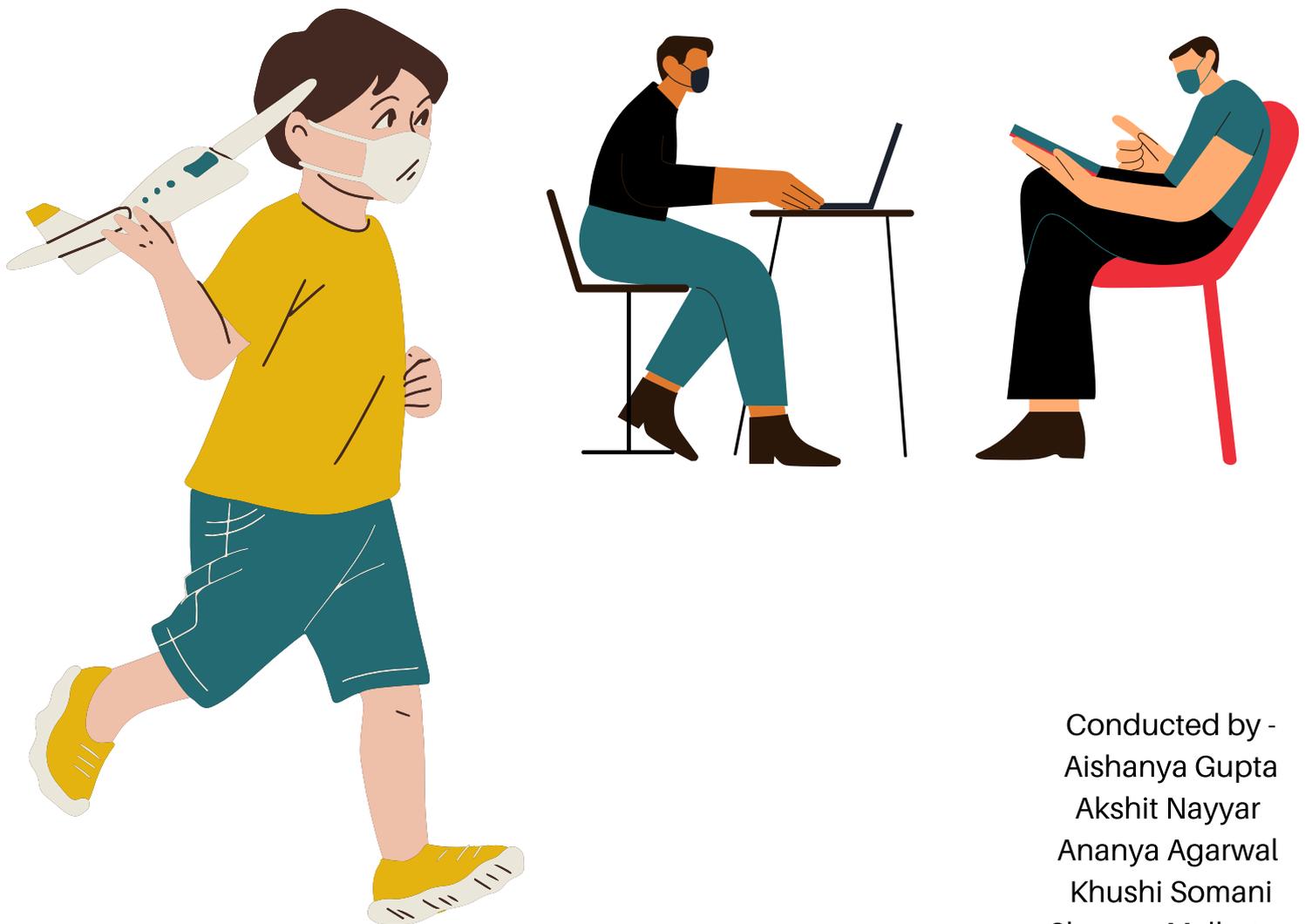


ABSTRACT

The economic, social and environmental weight of SARS-CoV-2, a virus that originated in 2019 cannot be dismissed as we speak presently.

The introduction of coronavirus has transformed our professional, psychological and societal identity and caused a recognisable shift in pre-existing opinions and views. With regard to the importance of these ideological shifts, our survey aims at understanding these very opinions and views and highlighting the causative factors for the developed trends.

Be it estimating the impact of digital solutions to work, play, learn and socialize or gauging the ongoing vaccination drive in India, the survey touches on prominent aspects of surviving against a pandemic.



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FOREWARD

The last 16 months have altered our everyday life. When we ask someone how they are doing, we are no more sure of the response the question will elicit, and yet somehow, empathy has found its rightful place in our vocabularies.

Imagine a college student, who has never physically been to college or met his or her classmates in person, to the realities of no in-person meetings for a year and yet being able to hire teammates from all over.

The pandemic has brought with it pain, change, destruction, and a warped sense of timelines.



In this survey, Outline India asks questions that are on our minds, perhaps all the time. Questions we ask our friends, teachers, help, and family each time we speak to them over a call, or on video chat- when do they see themselves without a mask? when do they think it will be ok to be in a crowded room? will more people lose their jobs? Will there be a third or fourth wave? What vaccine do they prefer? As part of our endeavor to better understand your mind, our team of researchers, driven by our group of enterprising interns worked with over 700 people to explore questions on vaccination, mental health, et al. As part of our summer program, over a two month time period, our interns from different disciplines worked painstakingly to figure what to ask and how to ask it.

I do hope this brief will shed some light on your quandaries surrounding, 'what are the others thinking' and realize that perhaps you are not the only one thinking a certain way, and not knowing what comes next.

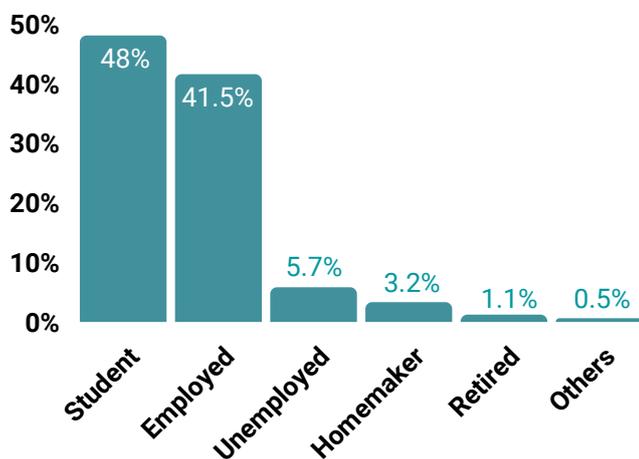
Sending my best,

Prerna and our batch of Interns from Summer 2021, to whom I wish all the luck in the world as they navigate through unprecedented times. They are a unique batch for they know at the very onset of their youth how to best fight uncertainty and draw strength from it.

INTRODUCTION

Research on Covid-19 and its implications has gained significance in recent times as the novel virus continues to erode the fundamental aspects of every individual's life. With a wide-scale eruption of misinformation about the parameters and consequences of Sars-Cov-2, it has naturally become a habit for citizens to engage in telephonic and online conversations about the same.

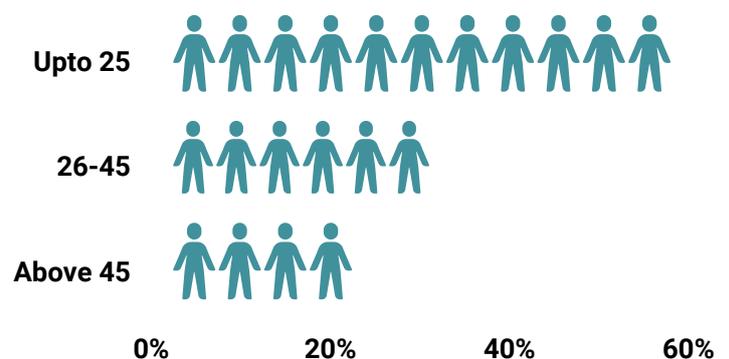
The youth, more than ever, feels the need to optimize the static space created by a lack of certainty and transparent solutions to help achieve their future goals. With the objective of gaining actionable insights to establish **well-rounded opinions and decisions** about the issues that arise out of life in a pandemic, we set out to investigate the standpoint of our loved ones, correspondents, and elderly on topics of **Skill & Efficiency, Healthcare & Vaccination, and the Future**.



The survey was conducted by employing the **snowball method of sampling**, a technique in which existing subjects provide referrals to recruit samples required for the active research study. The questionnaire consisted of **15 prompts**, both **qualitative and quantitative**, the responses to which were condensed from a **non-pre-calculated** and pre-defined list of **750 participants**.

The survey displayed the following characteristics:

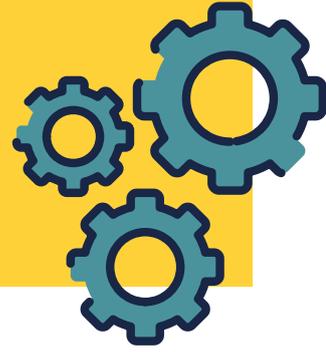
The sample space was predominated by **students (48%)** and **employed individuals (41.5%)**. Of those that marked themselves as unemployed, a whopping **58.1 % say they have been unemployed due to Covid-19**.



The survey represents all diverse age groups from **16 to 60** with the majority of the respondents being up to **25 years of age (55%)**.

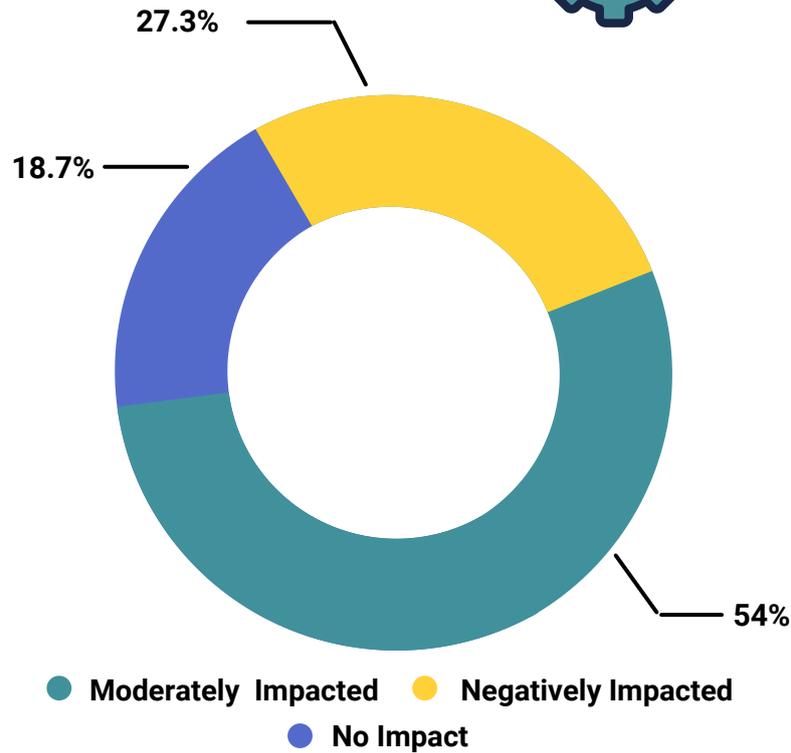
The question prompts, were designed to cover the aforementioned domains of Skill & Efficiency, Healthcare & Vaccination, and the Future. They remained multiple choice and rating scale based so as to ensure an intuitive and mutually exclusive .

SKILLS & EFFICIENCY

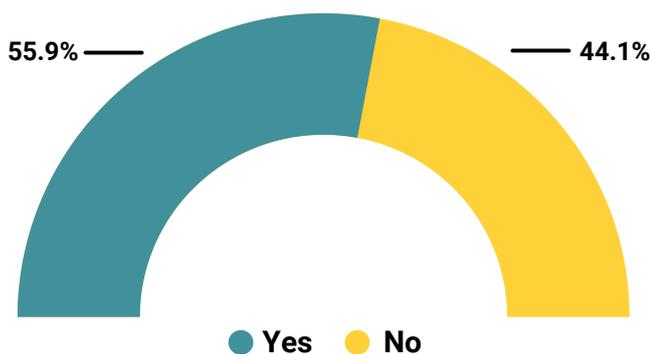


The buzzwords of skill and efficiency have garnered importance as citizens were limited to the portals of their homes. As per our survey, more than half the respondents (55.9%) **undertook the commitment to upskill themselves**. This trend parallels Pearson's survey that states "Learners in India want to focus on digital education, soft skills, and vocational education to make them job ready."

61.78% of people from the 16-25 age gap showed the willingness to develop a skill. The principal reason for this could be the fact that most of them are students who wish to stay relevant with the mitigating job market.



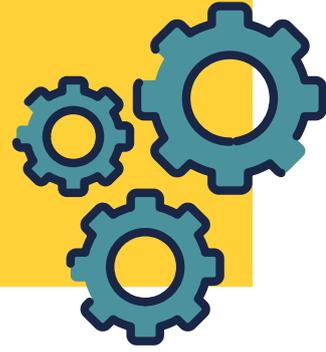
Impact of Remote Education/Work Education on individual efficiency



Have you acquired a new skill during the pandemic?

Against home environment settings, companies and organisations have undergone a paradigm shift in terms of work ethic as they now emphasize 'Work From Home'. Similarly, the traditional in-person education model has diverged into the educational technologies (EdTechs) model, where teaching and assessments have shifted online. In accordance with this, employers and teachers wish to optimize the work efficiency of students and workers alike. As the aforementioned strength of 750 stands, more than half of the respondents felt that this technological shift only 'moderately impacted' their efficiency with no connotations around the word 'impact'.

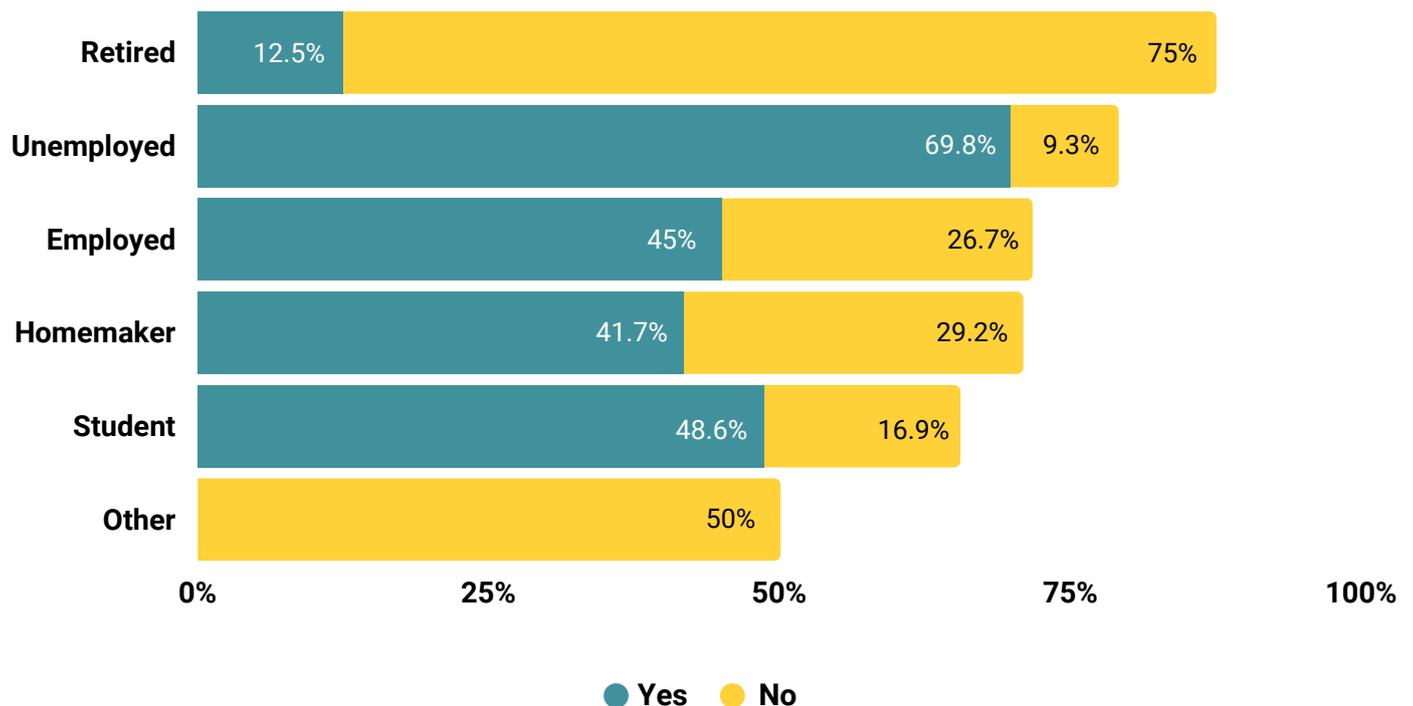
SKILLS & EFFICIENCY



On the topic of education, notwithstanding the falling 71,769 Indians traveling abroad for prospective education as released by the Ministry of External Affairs, a monumental percentage migrate inter-state on the prospect of better education. Our survey reports that **140 and 175 employees and students** respectively stated that their future work/educational plans have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

The moderate effect has been removed for clearer analysis.

Have your future education/working plans been delayed due to the pandemic?



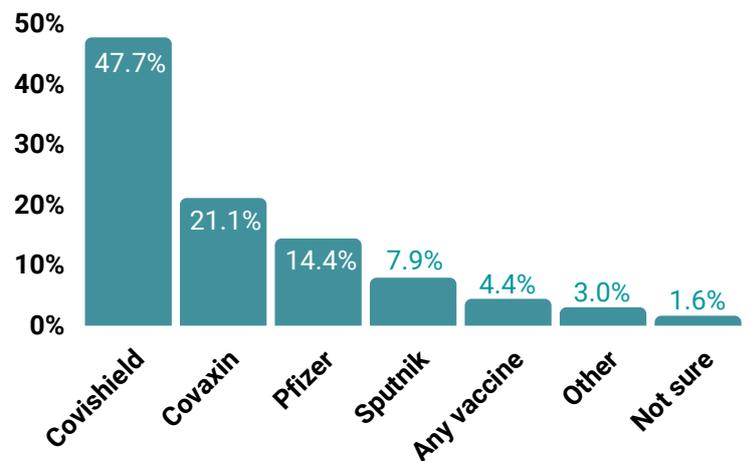
HEALTHCARE & VACCINATION



In the world's largest vaccination drive yet, our sample shows a staggering **34.1% as not a part of this very drive**. Out of those who have not been vaccinated, students and young adults form the majority of the population and contrastingly also the majority in terms of those who have received their first dose of vaccine.

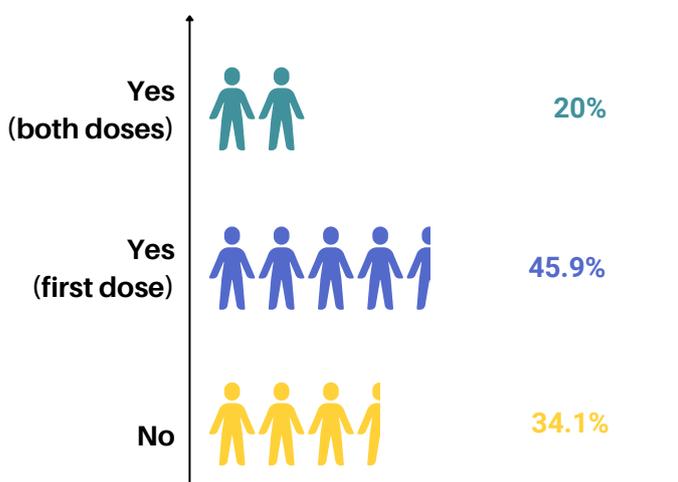
As for the **20% of respondents that are fully vaccinated**, 63% declared themselves employed and a possible reason for this occupational presence are the corporate vaccine mandates as guided by The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Should akin mandates be set out for the unemployed dominated by 45+ adults, the captured survey locations would produce positive results in the government initiative. **On the other hand, out of the 34.1% not vaccinated yet, as high as 88.7% are inclined towards taking the vaccination.**

Which vaccine are you inclined towards?



Additionally, an emerging issue was the construction of preferences over which vaccine is most efficient, and while there is a multitude of scientific evidence that bridges the growing hostility over the same, there has been an obvious role of misplaced fear, lack of knowledge, and personal bias that has inhibited the potential vaccinated strength of India. As for the unvaccinated population, 88.7% of people plan on getting immunized in favorable conditions.

Current Vaccination Status



Out of the total sample, the majority (47.7%) of the respondents were inclined towards the Covishield vaccine followed by Covaxin and Pfizer. Some respondents (4.4%) were of the view that they won't really have a choice and will have to go with the vaccine that was available or were indifferent to the vaccines. 1.6% of the respondents were not sure of their preference as they felt that they might not have all the details needed to make an informed decision.

HEALTHCARE & VACCINATION



Questions on India's healthcare system reflected that **36.7% of respondents were unsatisfied and unconfident in the functioning of the system.** The reason behind this may be the surging infections brought on by the second wave and the dearth of the medical workforce and infrastructure. Accordingly, only 8.13% of the respondents found any promise in the said system.

Confidence in Indian Healthcare System



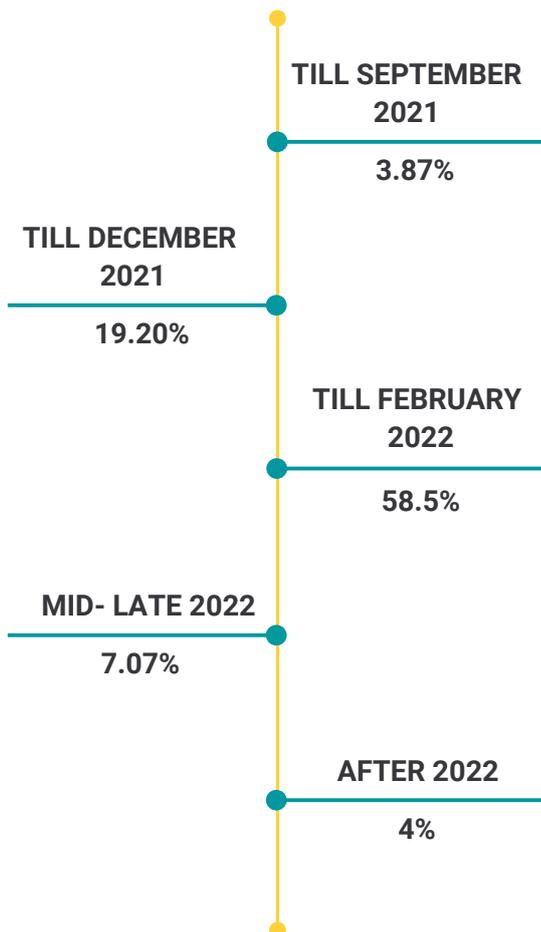
The results generated by the survey are not misplaced with a [World Bank Report](#) reinforcing that the limitations identified by our own respondents and medical professionals are not 'isolated' but converge and highlight the disconnect between the health needs of the public and the capability of the current institutional system.

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

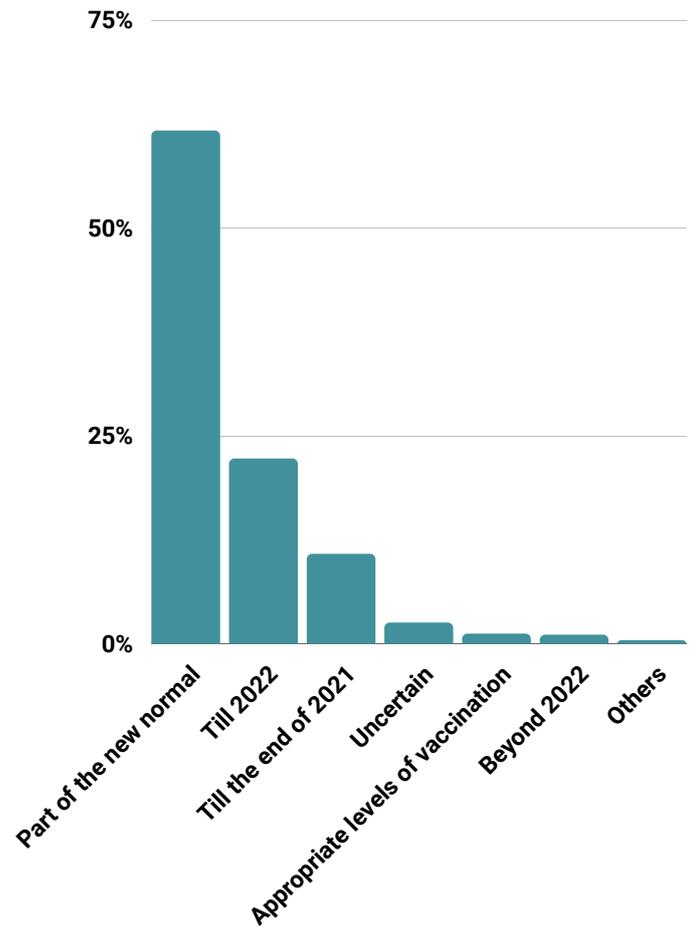


From seasoned professionals to students and amateurs, uncertainty has become a shared sentiment. **In continuation with the vaccine scenario confabulation, 58.53% of the respondents believed that given the nature of the vaccination, the aim to attain herd immunization would go on till February 2022.**

How long do you think the vaccination drive will continue for?



Masking expectation



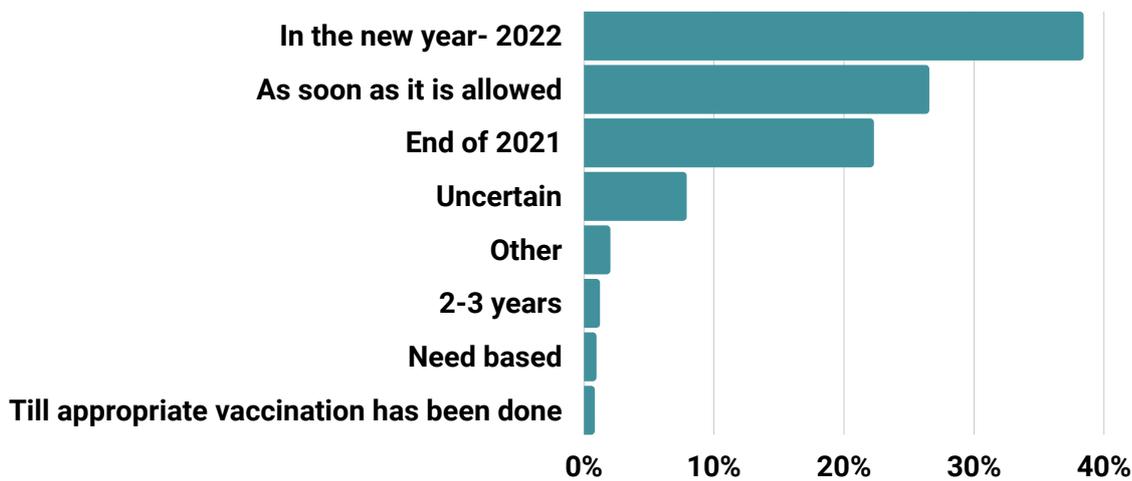
On the question of using a mask which has now become a critical part of everyone's day-to-day lives, **a majority of our respondents felt that it will become a part of the new normal.** However, **33.07 % remain fairly optimistic that its usage would end sooner in 2021 or 2022.** A small group of people also said that the masking guidelines should be adhered to till the vaccine drive continues.

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS



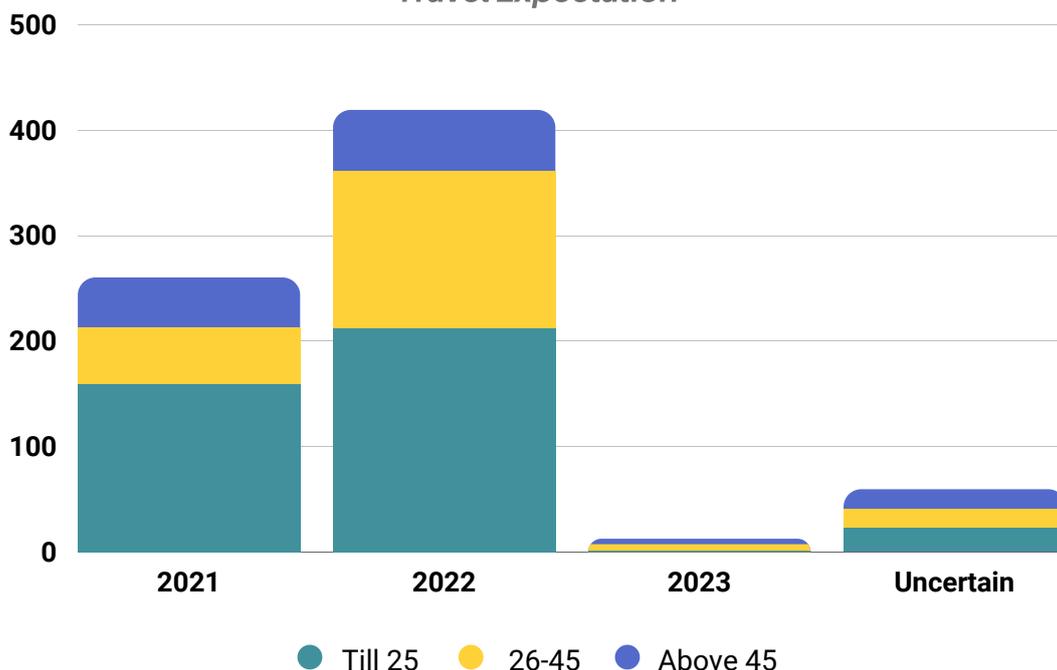
As prospects of socializing and traveling, key activities indulged in by man since the birth of civilization got duller, the survey painted out how inclined the respondents are in attending large gatherings. **Overall, notwithstanding the year 2021 to have not lapsed yet most felt it is best to venture into a crowded location in 2022.**

Attending Large Gatherings



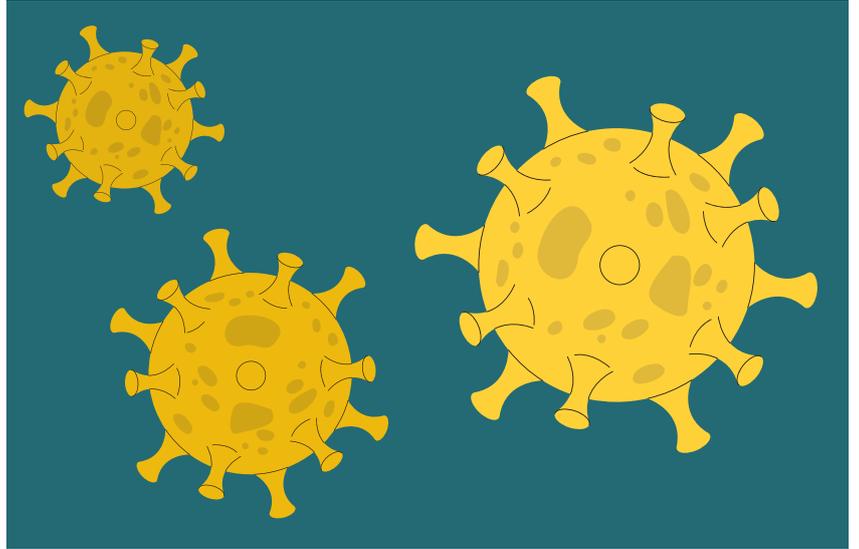
On the subject of traveling, similar trends were seen; **the year 2022 was marked as the most favored year** with low strengths proceeding with their temporary departure during the remaining year for 2021 itself. Moreover, the larger part of the audience uncertain about traveling came under the tag of employed.

Travel Expectation



CONCLUSION

Though important to assess the present layout, our topics of discussion are bound to change. Beyond a point, the conservative assumption of continuity from the past must be abandoned. The SARS-CoV-2 virus with its mutants is biologically capable of altering the way we perceive things but as for us, we hold the privilege of sound perceiving.



As per the collected data, **the age group of 16-25 was most constant to change with the highest percentages in vaccination, traveling, and accepting masks as the new way of living.** While other age groups were passive to many turning aspects of life affected by the pandemic, there is no certainty the trends following a similar pattern in the time to come.



The pandemic has exposed how crucial it is for information to flow freely and serve as a basis for decision-making for governments and individuals. More than emotional commitments, misplaced biases, and preconceived notions, it is imperative to shape the future of the country on practical measures.





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