



COVID 19 | 2020

Survey Report | Apr 2020

ABSTRACT

This report is an analysis of how the COVID 19 Pandemic impacted people's lives and how they responded in this crisis situation.

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Introduction

COVID 19 pandemic is the most infectious and deadly disease to have spread in the last 100 years. The first case was identified in Nov 2019 in China in the province of Hubei. At the time of writing this nearly 184,000 people have died across the world. The most affected nations include USA, Spain, Italy, France, UK, Iran and China.

Almost every country across the globe had to take preventive measures in order to control the spread of disease. In some cases whole countries were locked down. Consequently, economic activity has come to a halt thereby creating another crisis situation – in which businesses are closing down, people are losing their jobs, health workers are fearful of their lives. The world is in a panic.

This survey was conducted to assess the impact of the pandemic on the lives of people. The target audience was working class which included businessmen, doctors, teachers, executives, consultants, HR professionals, engineers etc. Students and housewives were also included to assess how families were affected.

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UBM Advisory Services is a consulting firm which helps businesses in implementation of Ubudiyah Business Model (UBM). For more information about UBM please visit www.ubmtrust.org.

Synopsis

257 people participated in the survey. 88 percent of the participants were from Pakistan. Rest of them were from Middle East, UK, USA, Germany, Ireland, Australia, Canada, India and Sweden.

Majority of people are worried

69% people worry about getting infected

All respondents are healthy except one

Alhamdulillah none of the respondents have the disease except one sister who is working as a nurse (NHS volunteer responder) in UK. We pray for her complete and early recovery. Ameen!

Positive impact on the lives of people

35% people felt that the pandemic has had a positive impact on their lives, 40% stayed neutral while 25% did not agree. Some people asked how a calamity like this could have a positive impact.

Valuable lessons were learnt

For 78% people there are valuable lessons to be learnt from this experience, 18% were neutral while 4% disagreed.

Majority of people improved as persons

59% people felt they improved themselves as persons, 33 person remained neutral while 8% percent did not agree.

Some respondents were able to improve their time management

24% people improved their time management, 39% remained neutral while 45% did not improve at all.

Majority spent quality time with their families

79% people spent quality time with their families, 16% remained neutral while 5% did not enjoy the experience.

Self-improvement

54% people used this opportunity to enhance their skills or knowledge.

Focus on giving vs getting

- 65% people helped the needy. Some were not in a position to do so but had the desire.
- 49% people agreed that in future they will be spending less on themselves. 21% remained neutral while 25% did not agree.

Improved relationship with Allah

78% people feel their relationship with Allah has improved as a result of this calamity. 18% remained neutral while 4% did not agree.

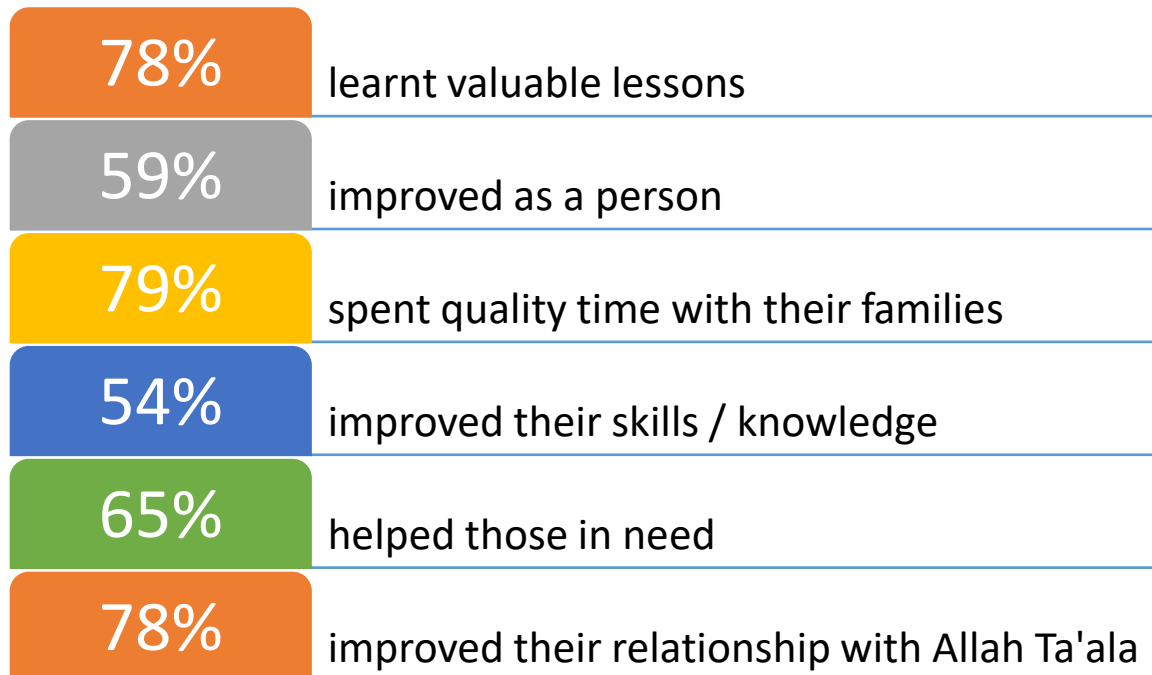
Conclusion

Alhamdulillah from the respondent group, most of the people have restored and improved their relationship with Allah, most of them are helping those in need, most have learnt valuable lessons, most have good relationships with their families, most did not waste their time and rather learnt something new.

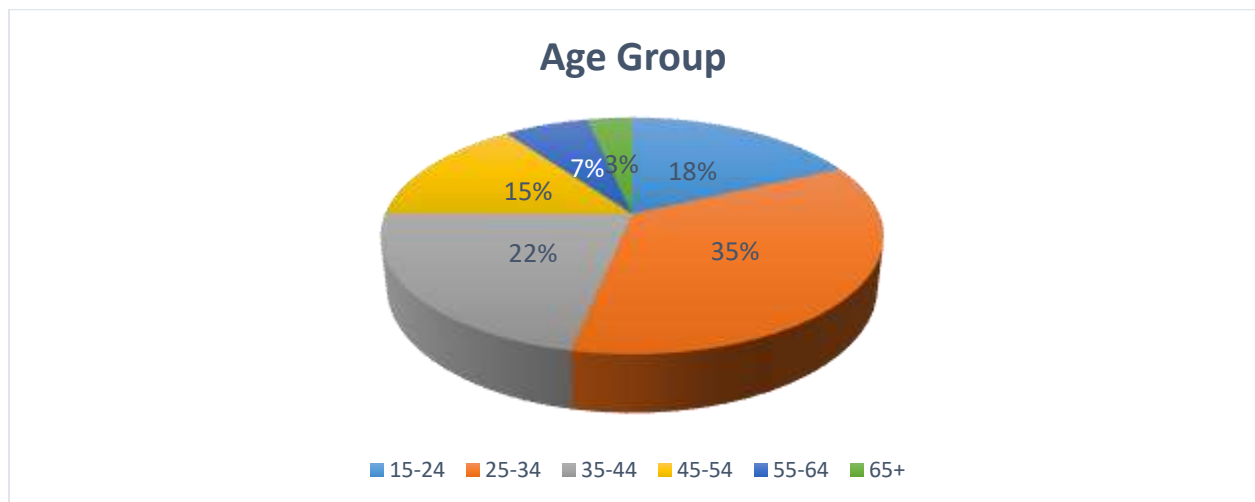
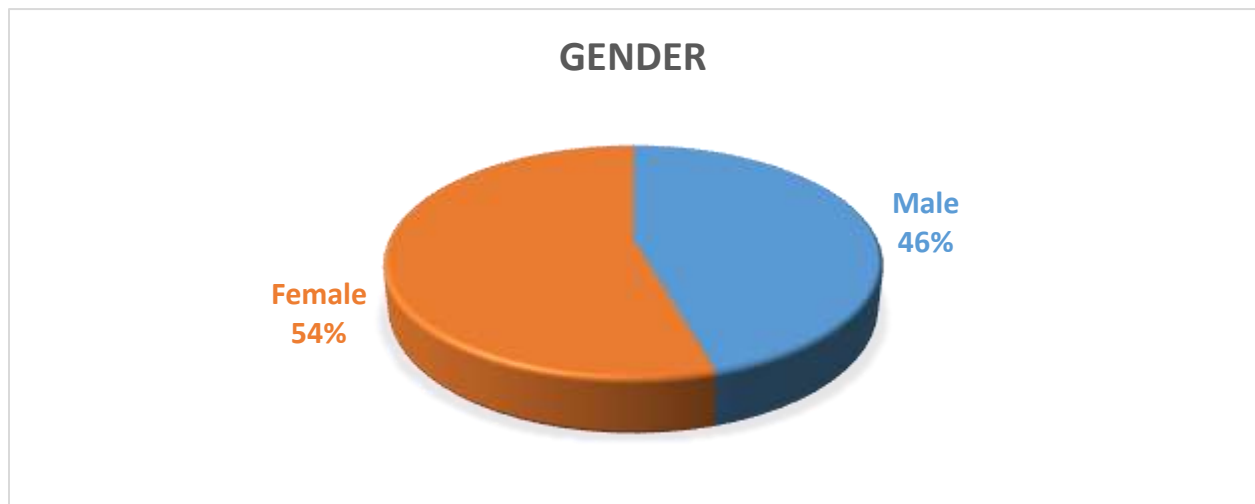
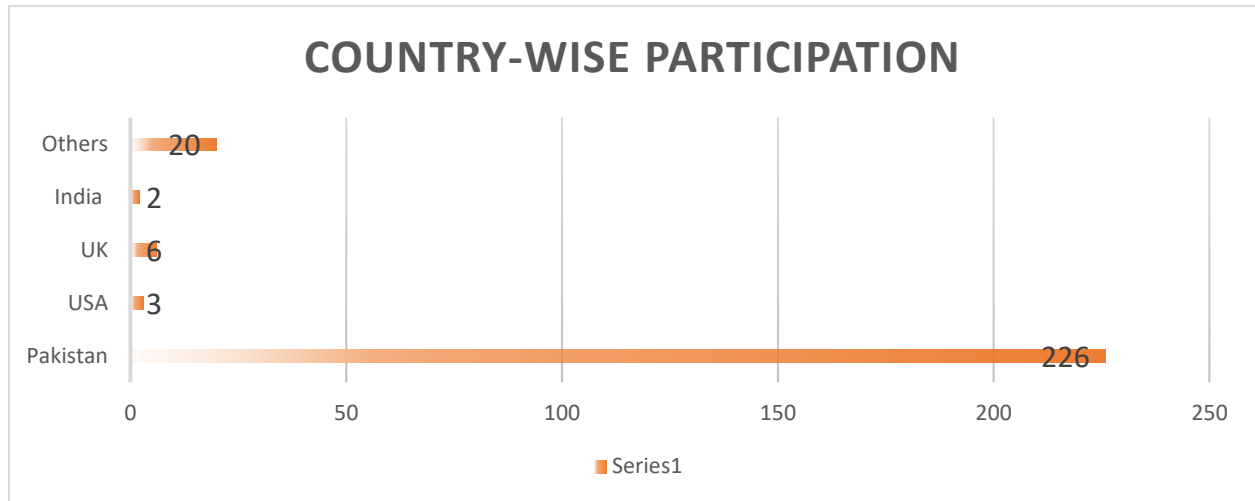
This report should motivate those who have so far not responded positively in the current situation.

We all should understand very well that the only one who can get us out of this situation is our Creator, our Rabb. And so we pray:

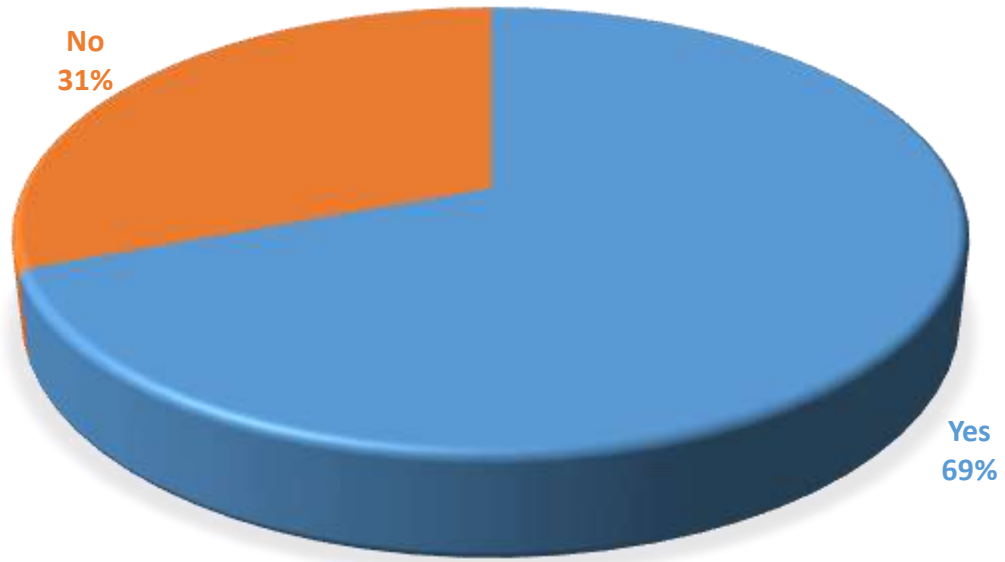
May Allah forgive us all. May Allah grant us refuge from all serious illnesses. May Allah grant complete and speedy recovery to all those suffering. May Allah forgive all those who passed away. May Allah protect healthcare workers everywhere around the world. May Allah through His infinite Mercy guide the mankind to turn to Him. Ameen!



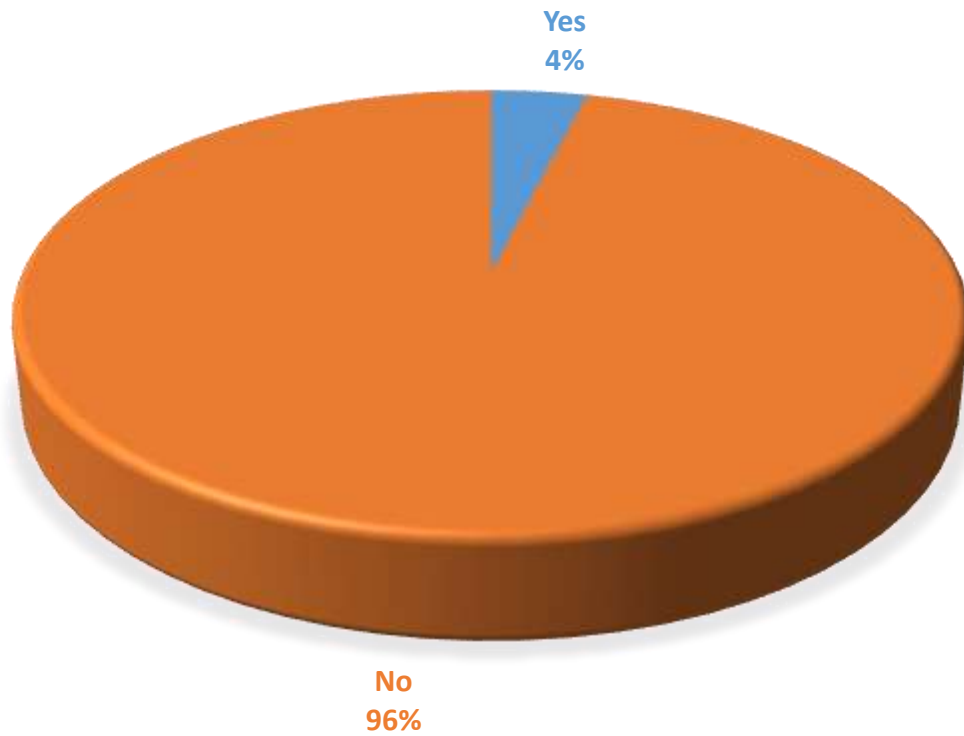
The Survey



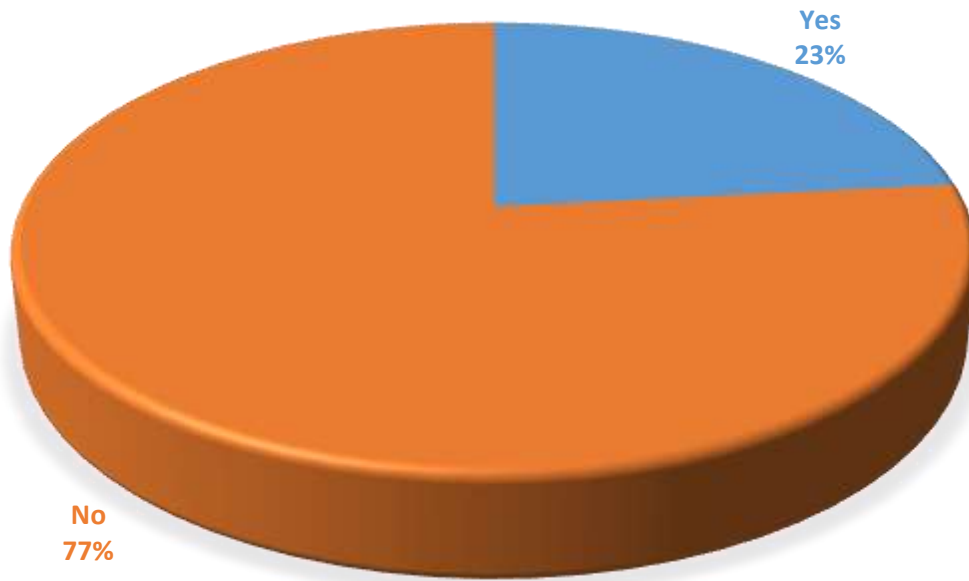
DO YOU WORRY ABOUT GETTING INFECTED?



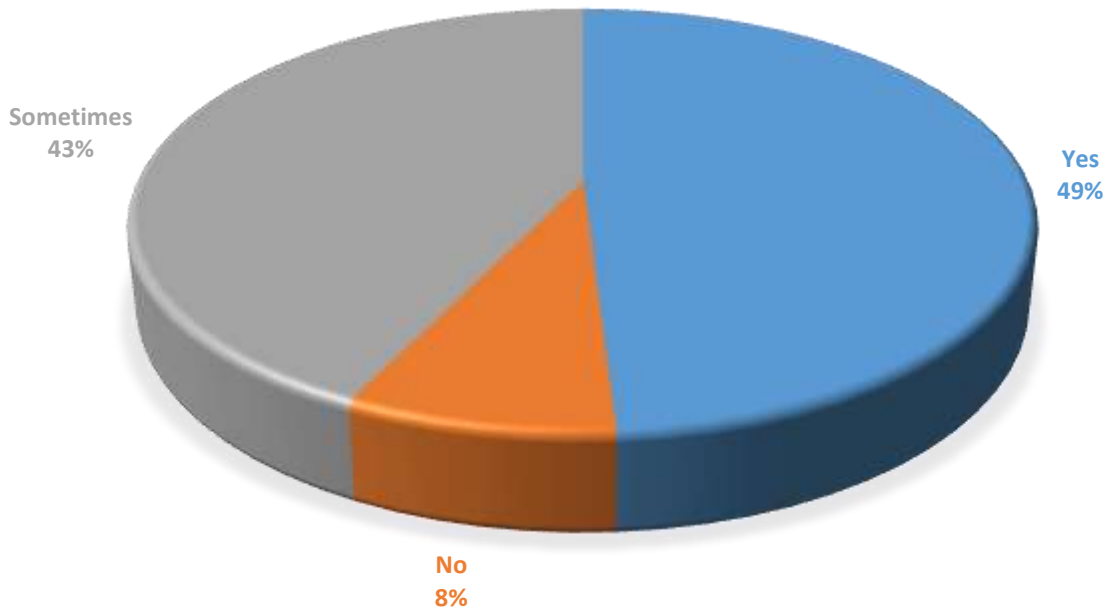
DID YOU TEST FOR VIRUS?



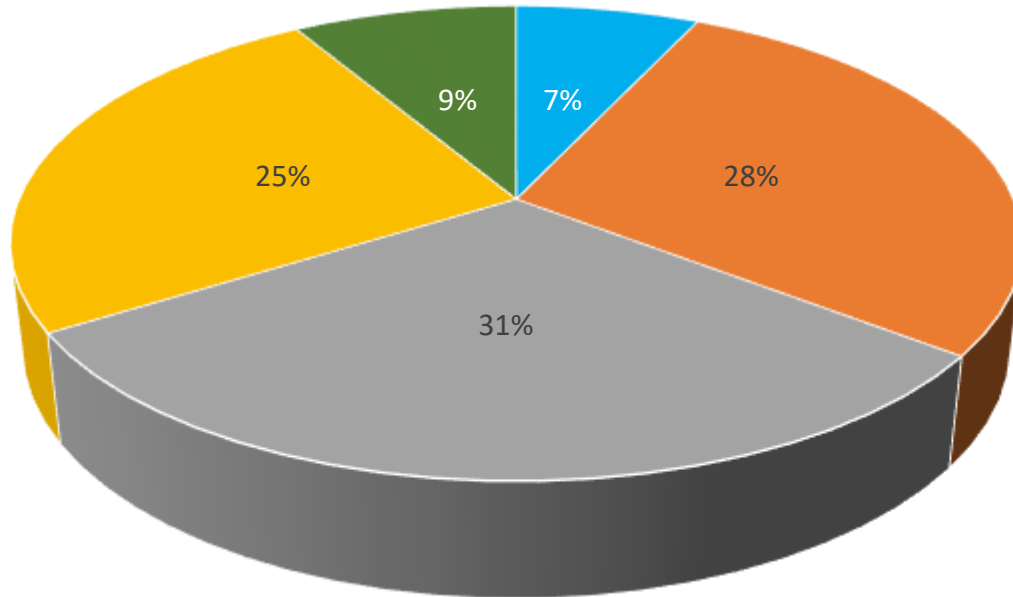
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO CONTRACTED COVID 19?



DO YOU READ REGULAR UPDATES ABOUT THE PANDEMIC?

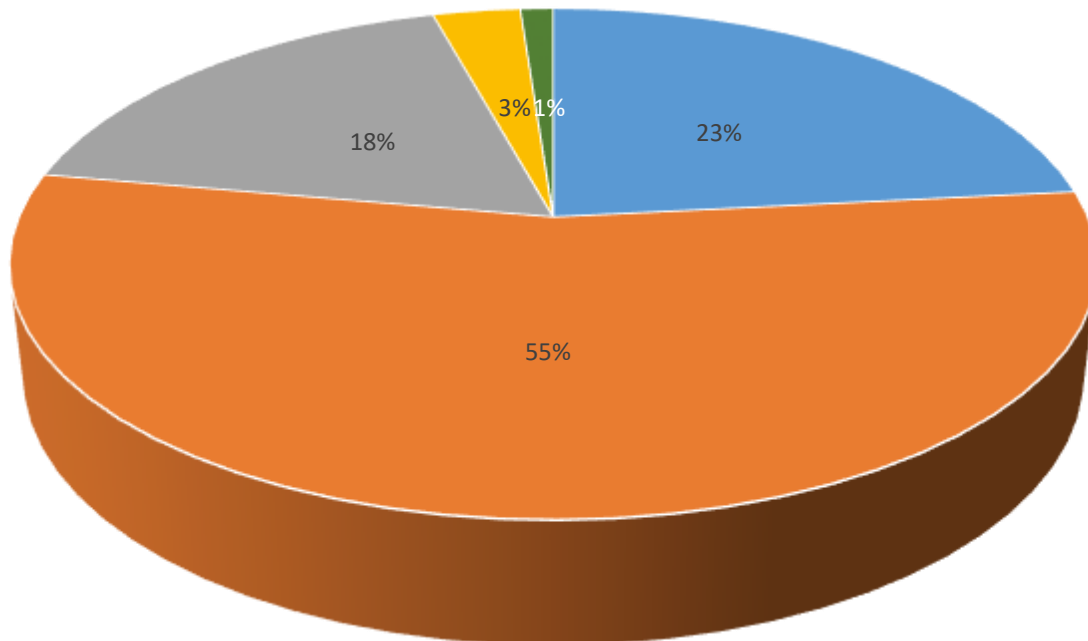


COVID 19 pandemic and the related measures had an all-over positive effect on my life



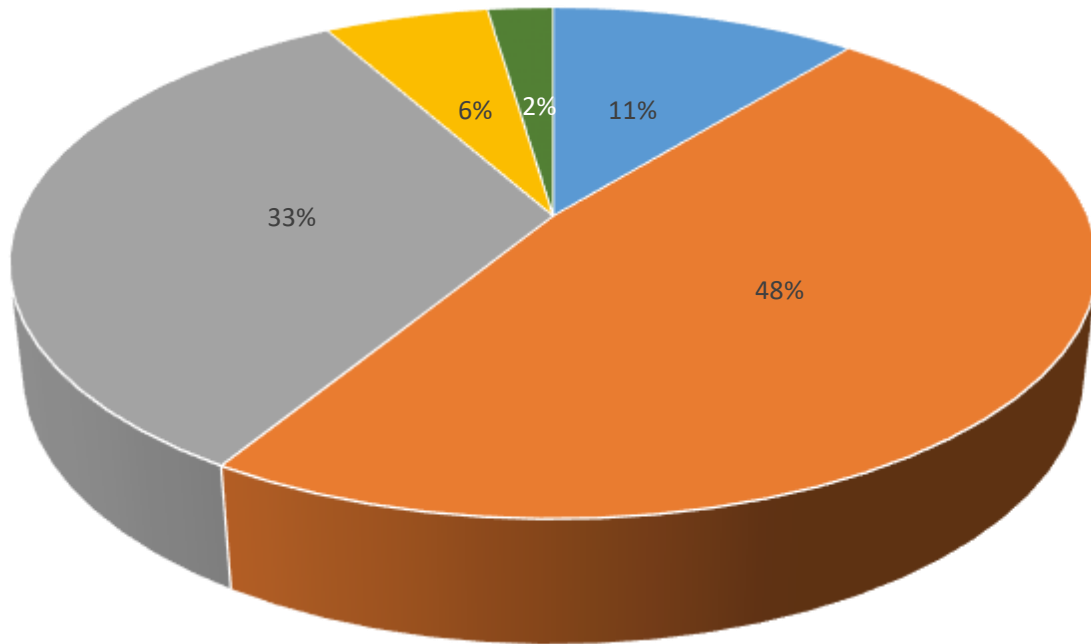
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

I learnt valuable life lessons during this pandemic



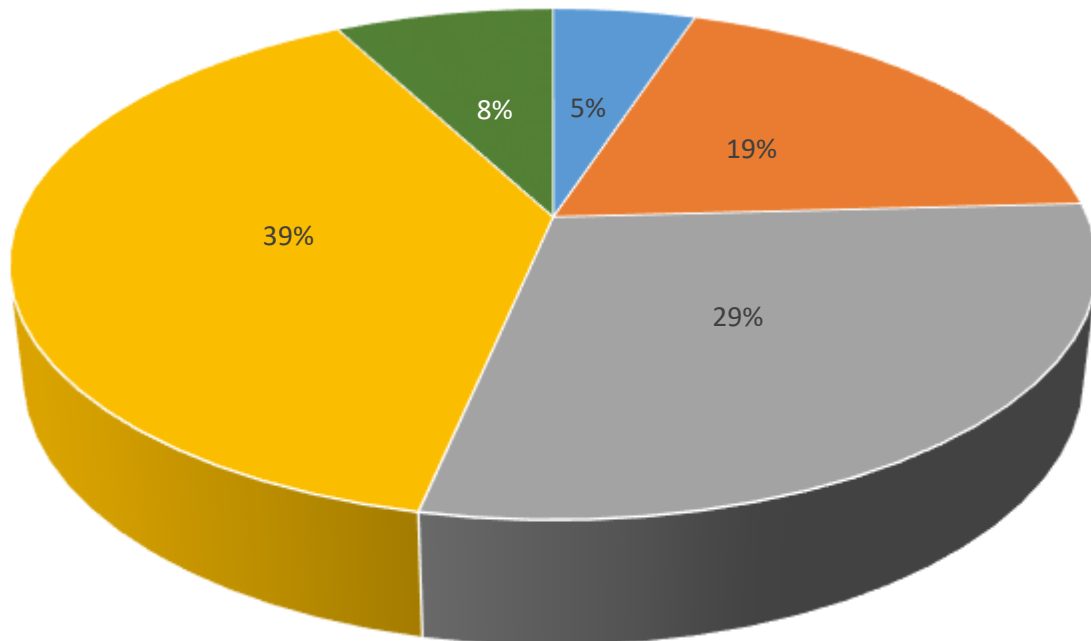
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

The COVID 19 pandemic has helped me improve as a person



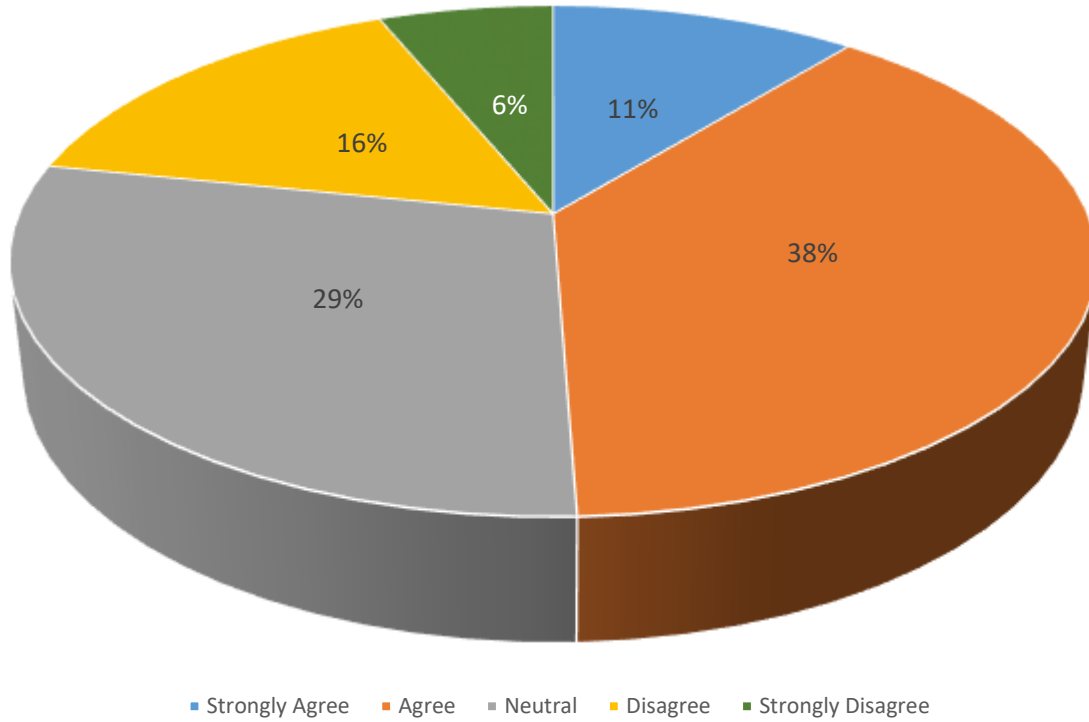
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

My time management has improved

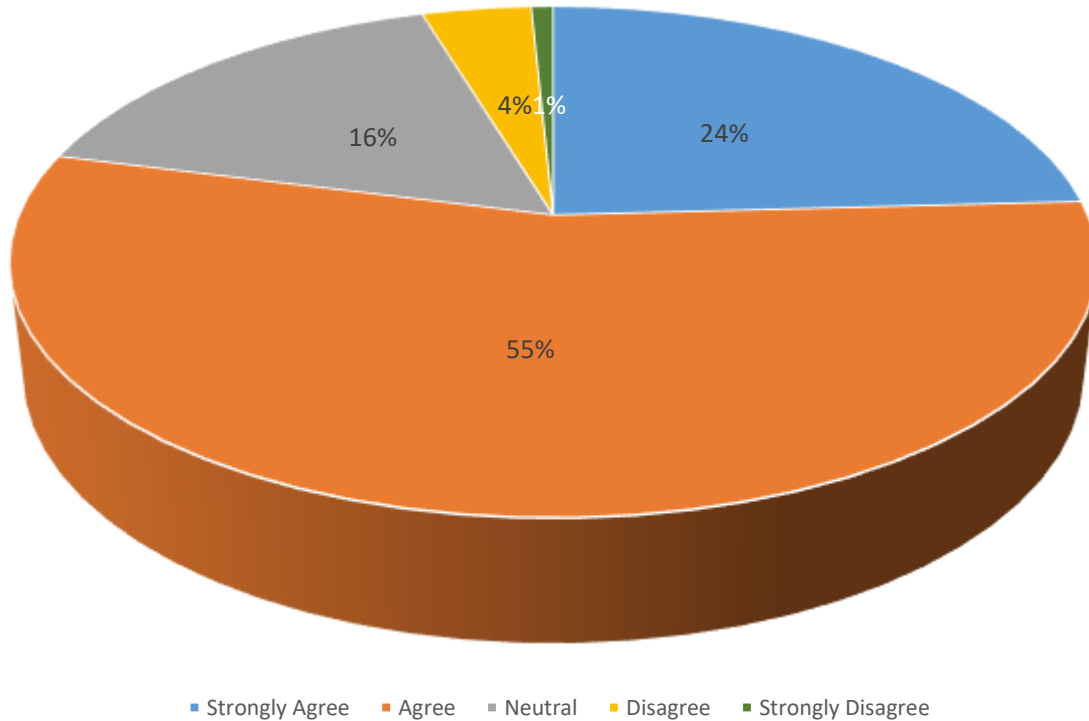


■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

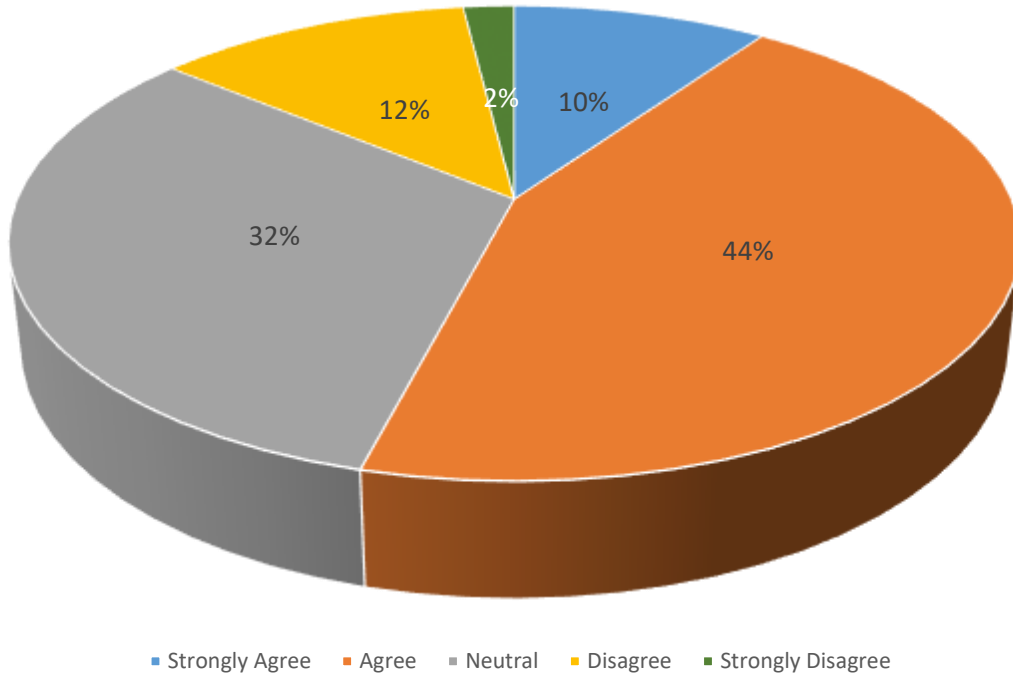
The pandemic had a positive impact on my family life



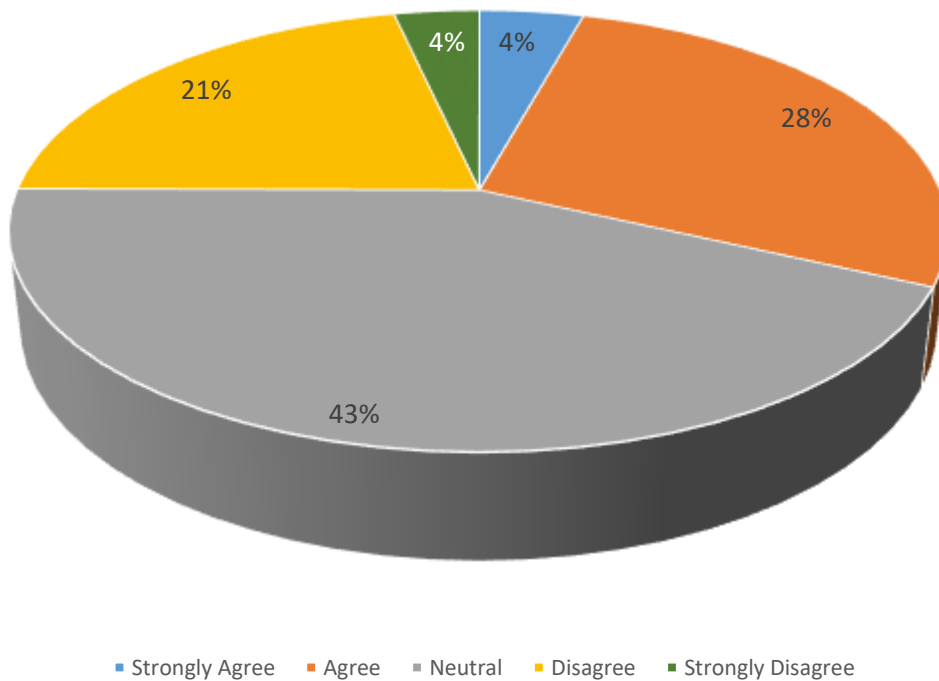
I spent quality time with my family.



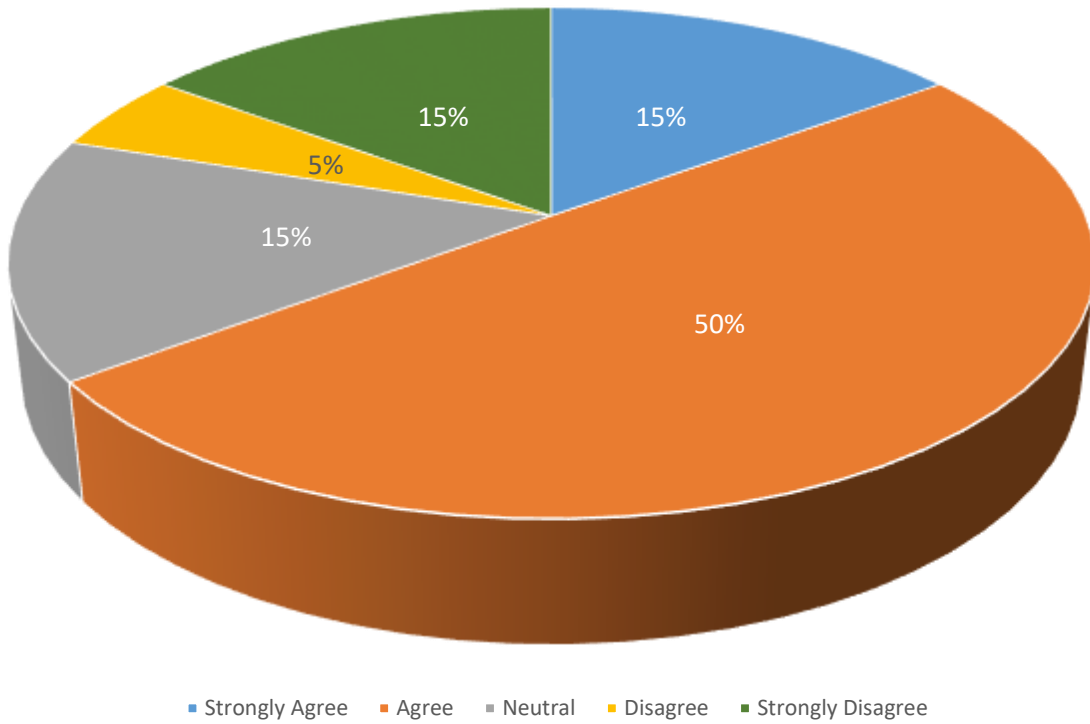
I acquired new skills/knowledge or improved my existing skills/knowledge



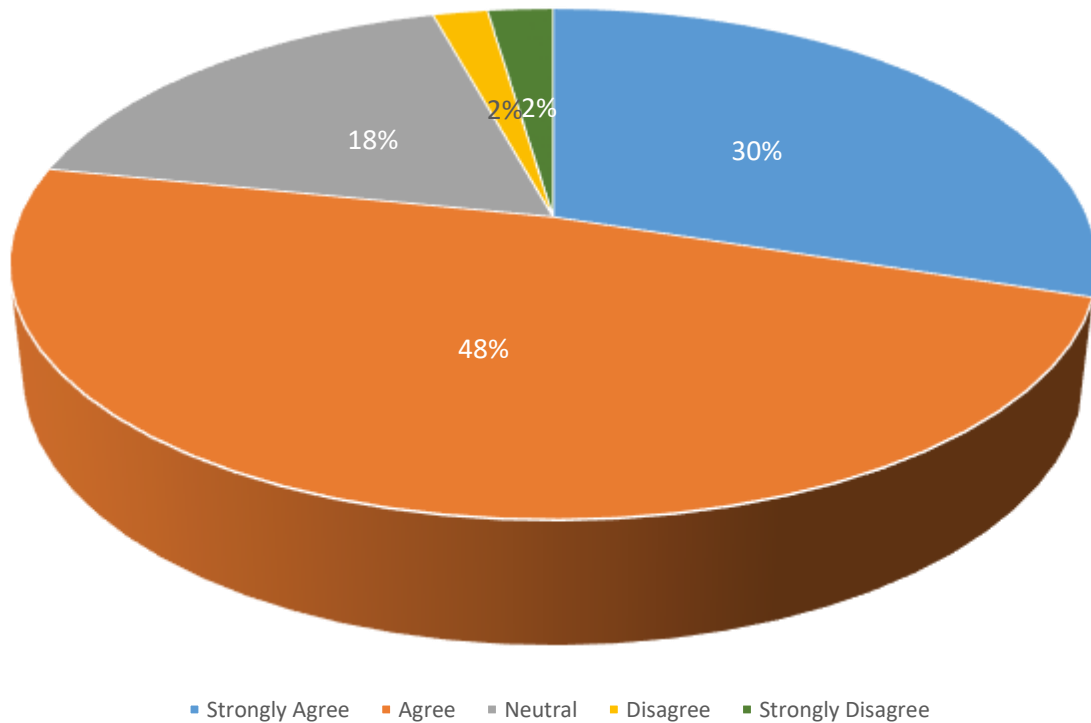
In future I will be spending less on myself



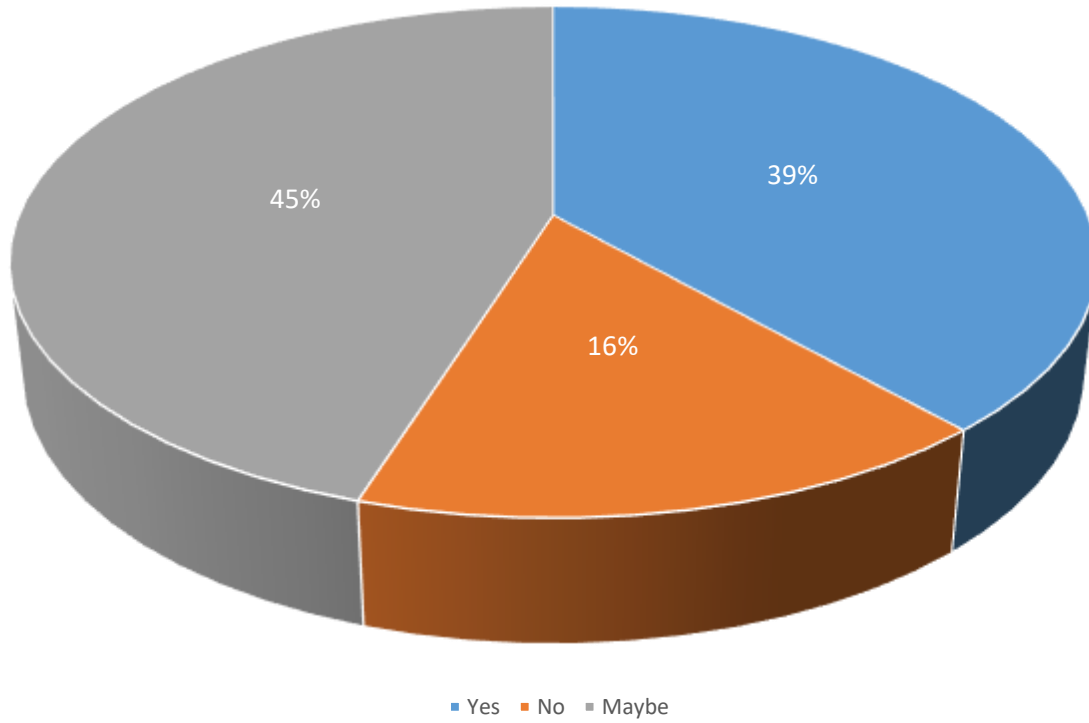
I was able to help people in this hour of need



My relationship with Allah/God has improved



Do you think these impacts will be of a lasting nature?



Comments from Respondents

There were some very interesting comments from the respondents. Some of them are being copied below:

Those who turned to Allah

1. Came to know more about power of Allah SWT, and reality of this short life. Now, I want to give time for eternal life and do deeds that is required from me by Allah SWT.
2. Repenting and submitting myself regularly to Allah SWT.
3. Now I am close to Islam and my family
4. My faith increased and my relationships improved
5. Doing more Istighfar and got close to Allah

Those who are grateful

1. Although the professional life is near the mark of zero but am spending a lot of time with family resulting in positive behavioral changes in to the lives of children and myself.
2. I learned many things and also try to change bad habits of mine.
3. Made me realize how fortunate I am to have a home, a loving and caring family, great friends, health, a roof over my head and food in my belly, sleep at night. How many people have all these?
4. Staying with my parents, looking after them, is indeed a blessing.
5. I can spend my time with family and started online Arabic Language courses
6. Trying to become more disciplined and objective towards lifestyle
7. Family became close as never before.

Those who are distressed

1. How can it be positive when my job is at stake?
2. Business, socializing and the human life is in turmoil! How can the pandemic have a positive impact?
3. This pandemic is stressing me out as I am pregnant and I am really worried to visit my Gyne in these circumstances. This pandemic is making everything worse.
4. We have fear all over.
5. I'm stuck at home and mentally sick of being at one place.
6. I am bound to stay at home (in order to keep myself from getting exposed to risk present outside), working from home from last three weeks, job insecurity, daily life is affected, No outdoor activity and the list goes on.
7. I don't understand this question? Why a pandemic in which so many people die have positive effect on anyone????
8. Caused fear, break in routine, burden of domestic chores, anxiety about elders' health, children's education got affected.
9. Everything is shut. Causing anxiety and depression
10. As most of my work is on site, I feel that COVID19 has negatively impacted my work. I had to go for an international culinary competition which got cancelled because of this. I also feel less productive as there isn't much that I can do from home.
11. Isolation has started to feel like we are in captivity

12. Because of this my father's business is badly affected due to which we are quite depressed.
13. Stuck in home.
14. Almost imprisoned at home.
15. The constant state of fear plus being in quarantine with no social activity is somehow affecting my mental health.

Lessons learnt | Allah's Might and reality of this world

1. How Allah has power over all things? and how weak we are including the so called super powers
2. Unreliability of life and world
3. The food crisis taught me that how valuable each thing is and a little portion is so much enough also, and the things we often discard or waste can be utilized in a much better manner.
4. We can live our life in a simpler way
5. Our families and friends are very crucial for us
6. We have countless blessings given by Allah SWT
7. We should be thankful to Allah that he has kept us in a very good way and there are many people who do not have food, there are many who do not have any shelter in this difficult time.
8. We had been living the wrong priorities all our lives.
9. I agree that we spend way too much time trying to make an earning.
10. Was able to see my wife's contribution at home
11. Those people who were materialistic and believed in this artificial world were actually most affected.
12. Can do without so many things.
13. Came to know more about power of Allah SWT, and reality of this short life. Now, I want to give time for eternal life and do deeds that is required from me Allah SWT.
14. Lot of unnecessary work. Simple life is better. We have thankless nature
15. Cleanliness, closeness to Allah, remembrance of death
16. Life is not just for working and working day and night...we must spent quality times with our family and children also.
17. Spending time on important things in life instead of just job

How COVID 19 pandemic has/has not helped me improve as a person

1. I got a bit kinder, more patient, etc.
2. Helping poor through distribution of food items, given salaries to driver, servants before lock down in advance, gave them paid leaves and asked them not to worry about their salaries till I am on job and alive.
3. I am trying to change my habits to cope up with this life style.
4. Feel obligated in helping out others
5. Repented, closer to Allah
6. The behavioral change is the most important thing that occurred to me in this time.
7. Realization of frailty of Mankind
8. Working for those who are unprivileged.
9. I rediscovered myself and have been able to express and my inner self
10. I am and have been a sensitive person where employees are concerned and am trying to take care of them rather than lay them off

11. Was able to take good care of my old father
12. I have started regular prayers!!!
13. I feel I've become lazy and useless because there isn't much to do and I've lost all the motivation to be better.
14. Trying to help others
15. Prayers are better.
16. Got physically active because no domestic helpers now.
17. It helped me to become a good person because this is the time of our test from Allah SWT as a person, as a human and as a Muslim. It improved my personality and sense of living too...
18. Humbled and grateful for having more than the less fortunate.
19. Give easiness to domestic helpers.
20. It has made me realize that the world is ending and that we should be more inclined towards adapting the simplicity in life rather than running for the luxuries.
21. Spending more time in Ibadat.
22. I hardly find anything sensible going around from any side.
23. Became more empathetic

Acquired new skills/knowledge?

1. Signed up for several online courses, got to do much reading and writing.
2. Have read books and also attended an online training.
3. Started to explore Excel for an advanced level of understanding
4. Working on intuition and inductive thinking.
5. I have a talent of calligraphy and paintings which was hidden before this time. I read many medical books to get more knowledge about my profession and human life.
6. I improved my cooking skills stitching skills and cleaned my home deeply.
7. Quran recitation increased.
8. By learning Islam and teaching my children.
9. Learnt how to give online classes through various softwares.
10. My kids offer prayers with me, they have learnt new Duas, I have started doing more activities with my kids, involve them in house chores.
11. Developed habit of reading, started Dars in family before dinner to educate my family members
12. Learnt about different philosophers and their theories.
13. Gardening. Listening to others.
14. Can teach my children.
15. Started regular workouts.
16. I read many new books, sketched, painted and embroidered after so long.
17. Work from home
18. I used to do painting and poetry and because of my tough schedule I couldn't. Now I've time to polish my skills.
19. Just messed up my time management so I am a highly unproductive person these days.
20. Yes. Teaching kids. Specially practicing physical exercises.
21. I got some opportunities to do some online work.
22. No I thought I am in depression
23. My patience has improved for sure which I think is my skill as I'm a short tempered person.

24. Learning about web designing.
25. Learning Arabic language.
26. Taking online Quran classes.
27. Enrolled myself in online studies.

Improved relationship with Allah

1. Realizing His benevolence upon me and my family, despite being a sinner all my life.
2. Begging for His mercy, and blessings in all my prayers
3. Started preparation for the hereafter, doing Qaza for the prayers and fasts, making plenty of Duas and Zikr.
4. I am understanding Tawakkul more and more.
5. Yes. Unfortunately before this I was involved in Dunya, but it is a great gift of my Allah that He gives me Hidayat and try to live the way that my Allah wants
6. I tried to beg for forgiveness, and thought about and forgave people who I had been hurt by...
7. I and my family pray together. Didn't miss a single Namaz, Alhamdulillah. Our home became Masjid.
8. Ibadaat have increased, asking Allah SWT has increased. Talking to Him has increased. Alhamdulillah.
9. By spending my time on online courses and Seerat and Quran.
10. Oh I'm two times survivor of bladder carcinoma. I somehow avoided 2 air crashes, numerous surgeries and some hard financial knocks and am still here. I can never be thankful enough to the Almighty. Alhamdulillah.
11. My relation with Allah became even more stronger.
12. I stop skipping prayers.
13. I offer Tahajjud, recite Quran.

Lessons for mankind

1. Allah is the Supreme Power
2. This is a serious jolt. World was too materialistic, everything is there but they can't utilize, things are static.
3. Work from home.
4. Maybe they will come towards Allah. Maybe people repent on what they are doing with the world, creating Zulm and Fasad.
5. Jobs, money is not all we need.
6. Don't eat everything.
7. Many... about consumerism and materialism
8. Try to focus on positive impact things instead of waging wars and pollution. The Capitalist mindset has to go away.
9. God controls everything.
10. Minimalism is the key to survival.
11. Too many brands have built personas that make us believe that we need them; the scenario is opposite, the brands need the consumer to survive.
12. Money is not everything.
13. Don't believe everything you see on media.

14. Allah is the only one who gives cure from every disease.

Lessons for the corporate world

1. Benefit the planet. Don't try to kill it.
2. Working from home is an option.
3. No long hours required in the office.
4. Profiteering is not the only thing. Giving progress, health and balance of life is more importance.
5. Care
6. Don't make the environment so polluted, and health should be the foremost priority for all of us in all situations... time and money should be spent on health.
7. Distribution of wealth, circulation of it.
8. Corporate world should focus more on benefiting the society as a whole.
9. Can they learn anything except money making?
10. Keep alternate ways of doing business.
11. They will find other ways for business/money making.
12. Help their employees in every situation.
13. They will definitely learn more ingenious ways to get the work done from their employees.
14. How to make money after this pandemic or even during it.
15. Maximization of profits at the expense of people/humanity needs to be rethought or the whole system can be disintegrated. Sell what is really needed and don't lure for the sake of fat bonus or salary.
16. We can spend less time in office.
17. Human life is worth more than business.
18. Reduce Greed.
19. People are more important than anything else.
20. A new order of managing human resources.
21. To go online and also that long workhours are unnecessary.
22. Life is not all about making money.
23. They cannot control everything.
24. They should invest in repairing the earth.
25. Move away from greed and concentrate on sustainability. Profits and growth are good but greed, hoarding and exorbitant profiteering should end. More corporate social responsibility is needed. If it can't be achieved voluntarily, then should be mandated through legislature. Corporate Zakat system should be considered.
26. Slow down, life is not a race.
27. Investments should be very critically analyzed, focus should be on healthcare.
28. The world is healing itself due to less pollution, less industrial wastage. That's how nature retaliates if we do not ponder!
29. Purpose supersedes profits. Purpose of contributing to society and environment.