Introduction

Rural households face various challenges while adapting to existing and emerging risks. These risks can be interpreted as a set of unprecedented shocks, defined as adverse events that cost individuals and families in terms of lack of income, reduced consumption, and the sale of assets. One of these challenges is their increased vulnerability because of poor infrastructure. Adapting to risks becomes a major activity for many families who live in rural areas of developing countries. It also takes a significant share of their income.  
  
Health shocks are the most common unprecedented shocks and the most pressing cause for families falling into poverty. When illness or injury impairs the health of a family member or causes the welfare of the family to be lost, the family experiences high levels of vulnerability. Health shocks have been defined as unpredictable diseases that undermine people's health status and are one of the most important factors related to poverty in these regions. Health and economic shocks can place a heavy financial burden on families, who must not only bear the costs of medical treatment but also the lack of income from incapacity for work.

Background  
  
Understanding these risks and related coping strategies is crucial for policymakers. This is reflected in the 2014 Global Development Report entitled Risks and Opportunities, which examines how families can cope with the wide range of risks they face. Hence, gaining a better understanding of the risks, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms available to deal with the wide range of health and economic shocks faced by rural households is essential in order to prioritize and properly design social safety nets.  
The purpose of this Research Topic is to present results about the situation of rural communities in developing countries after COVID-19 shock. The results should relate to the following topics:

• How rural communities perceive the health shock of COVID-19;  
  
• The level of economic vulnerability of people in rural, low-income regions in the face of COVID-19 shock;  
  
• Governing the COVID-19 shock - how the governments are supporting residents of rural areas;  
  
• Coping with COVID-19 shock - how have the residents adapted economically to lockdowns and restrictions that have been put in place;  
  
• What can be done to mitigate the effects of health shocks in these communities;  
  
• How does the COVID-19 shock affect the coping of rural communities with other shocks;  
  
• Who are winners and losers in the period of COVID-19 shock;  
  
• Gender and COVID-19 shock;  
  
• Resilience with COVID-19 shock;  
  
**Keywords**: COVID-19, rural, risk, policy, poverty

Methodology

* Population

The area population of the village sampled has a population of about 1000 individuals, which included both adults and children.

* Sampling approach

I used Convenience Sampling method to gather data from a sample size on the effects of Covid-19 on the population. This method included surveys with various questions that assessed whether sample size had been infected by Covid-19, if they have had any underlying medical conditions, and their economic situation post Covid (Appendix A).

* Sample size

The surveys were distributed to 100 respondents, 85 are adults (26- 35 years old) while 15 are children (11-13 years old). The sample size had both male and female represented for both adults and children.

* Sample representativeness

Non-probability sampling was deployed- where the sample was selected by convenience. The respondents were selected by proximity. However consideration was given to the Male and Female distribution, Female respondents were 40% while Male respondents were 60%

* Data collection

The data collection method provides reliable data given the nature of the parameters of interest and project. The methods of data collection are clear. There are no questions that could be subject to respondent error due to sensitivity, lack of recall i.e. (e.g. how much money do you spend on heating? or how many times did you buy fuel last year?).

Results

The survey results indicated a strong correlation between school performance and food insecurity (Appendix D). Students who answered affirmatively in the surveys were consistently among the lower performing members of their class. Contrasted with their peers who were not identified as socioeconomically disadvantaged, these students identified anxiety about their next meal as one of the top three concerns in their minds. Their participation in programs like free breakfast and reduced lunch helped to assuage daily hunger and general happiness, but their concern over food insecurity remained.

* Implementation Plan

Definition of the schedule for implementing the sampling effort and identification on who will conduct the actual data collection and the analyses are provided. Persons with qualifications and experiences taking into account potential conflicts while performing data collection and analysis are taken into consideration.

Appendices

appendix A

Effects of Covid-19 on rural areas – December 2021

1. How old are you?
2. What is your sex?
3. How many years of education have you completed?
4. Are you a working professional?
5. Do you have a chronic illness?
6. Where do you live?
7. In which district do you live?
8. Who lives in your household besides yourself?
9. Please asses your private financial situation over the past three months
10. To your knowledge are you, or have you been infected with Covid-19?
11. Do you know people in your immediate social environment who are or have been infected with Covid-19(suspected or confirmed)?