MGNREGA in Telangana

Implementation Status: April-December 2020

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Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) is a legal entitlement for every rural household in the country to receive guaranteed work on demand. Some of the key worker-centric provisions of the Act are listed below:

1. **100 days of Work:** A legal provision for a 100 days work per rural household in a year.
2. **Unemployment Allowance:** If an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days of demanding work, the applicant shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.
3. **Delay Compensation:** If the payment of wages is not made within 15 days from the date of completion of work, the worker is entitled to payment of compensation.

About this report

This report was prepared using data available in the public domain. The period of study for all analysis was from April to December in each year for employment provided and Job Cards issued. Payment related issues were analysed using data as on 3 January, 2021.

This report will include details of new workers registered, total/average days of employment provided, and wage payments to workers stuck due to technical problems. We hope that the report will add value towards improving MGNREGA implementation in Telangana.

Key Statistics

Table 1: Key MGNREGA Statistics for the country vs. Telangana

S. No.	Metric	Country	Telangana	Proportion in Telangana
1.	Job Cards[1] Issued Since Inception	14.76 crore	53.45 lakh	3.6%
2.	Person Days[2] Generated in FY[3] 20-21	303.67 crore days	13.63 crore days	4.5%
3.	Average Person Days per Household	44.15 days	45.32 days	-
4.	Average Wage Rate per Day per Person	₹ 200.26	₹ 168.45	-
5.	% SC Person Days	18.97%	22.54%	-
6.	% ST Person Days	15.79%	20.03%	-
7.	% Women Person Days	52.67%	58.16%	-
8.	Rejected/Suspended Wages due to Workers	₹ 209.72 crore	₹ 32.81 crore	15.6%
9.	Total Center Released Amount	₹ 86,195.88 crore	₹ 3447.83 crore	4%

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[1] **Job Card**: Each household registering under MGNREGA is issued a Job Card with details of each family member
[2] **Person Days (PDs)**: Days of employment. Under MGNREGA, every household is entitled to 100 Person Days of work per year
[3] **FY**: Financial Year

1. Employment and Work

1.1 Job Cards

Almost **3 lakh** (2,94,262) new Job Cards were issued this financial year, FY 20-21. This accounts for 5.5% of all Job Cards issued since inception. This year, **6.31 lakh** workers were added to the workforce. A district-wise breakup of Job Cards issued and the number of workers registered is provided below in Table 2. Kamareddy, Sangareddy, Rangareddy, and Nizamabad have added the most Job Cards this year, and J. Bhopalapally, K. Bheem, and Mancherial, have added the least.

Table 2: District-wise Job Cards and workers registered in FY 20-21.

Districts	Job Cards Issued	No. of Individuals in Job Cards
Adilabad	6,375	14,445
Bhadradri Kothagudem	8,644	22,814
Jagtial	14,967	22,572
Jangaon	5,072	10,081
Jayashanker Bhopalapally	2,052	6,349
Jogulamba Gadwal	7,728	15,874
Kamareddy	47,635	76,627
Karimnagar	5,616	11,943
Khammam	10,118	23,329
Kumram Bheem(Asifabad)	2,436	6,387
Mahabubabad	7,790	18,493
Mahabubnagar	8,755	17,282
Mancherial	2,122	6,088
Medak	7,446	20,085
Medchal	2,597	2,808
Mulugu	3,153	7,148
Nagarkurnool	9,809	21,187
Nalgonda	13,055	34,808
Narayanpet	6,972	17,663
Nirmal	7,272	20,295
Nizamabad	16,323	33,015
Peddapalli	3,694	7,859
Rajanna Sirsilla	5,781	14,022
Rangareddy	18,833	35,571
Sangareddy	17,855	35,161
Siddipet	8,582	22,042
Suryapet	11,750	31,785

Vikarabad	8,862	25,078
Wanaparthy	5,974	14,215
Warangal (Urban)	3,907	7,057
Warangal Rural	6,693	16,059
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	6,394	13,075
Total	2,94,262	6,31,217

Figure 1: Total Person Days (in lakhs) for TS over Last 3 FYs.
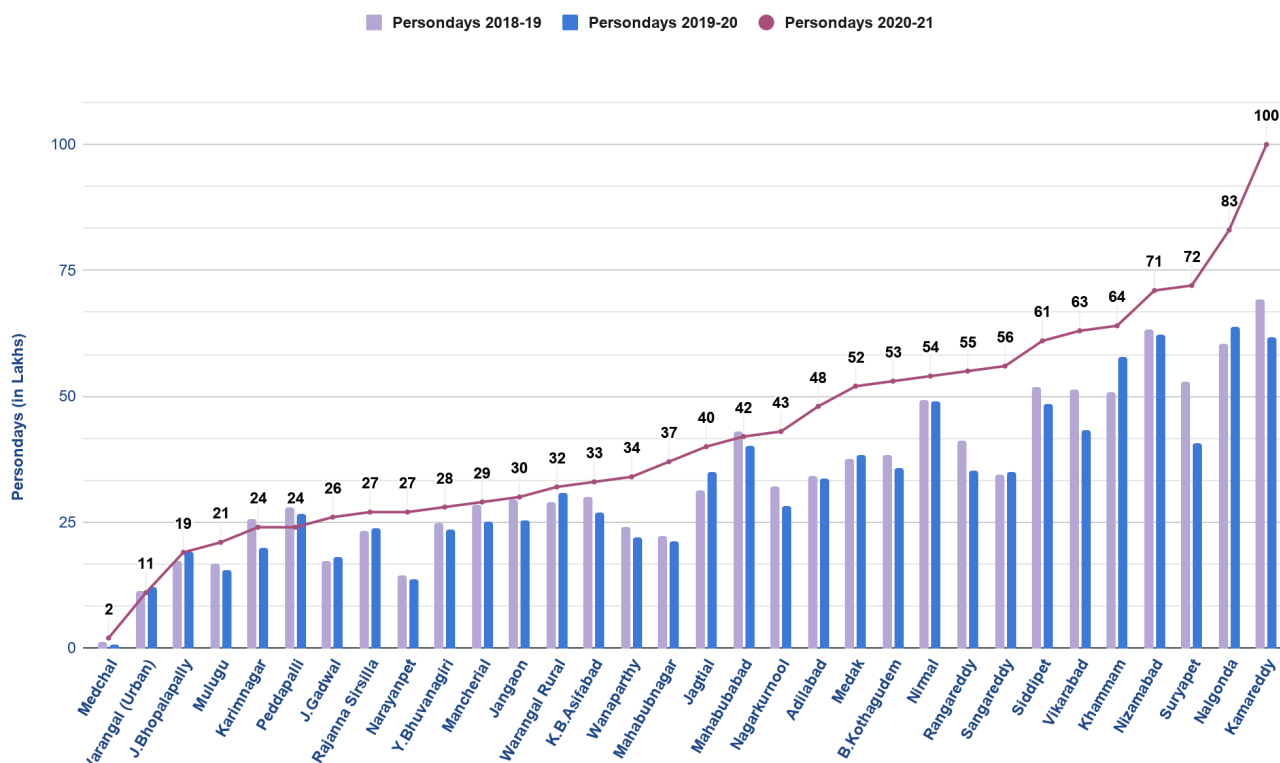
1.2 Employment

1.2.1 State Level

Figure 1 tells us that in Telangana, there has been **an increase of 292 lakh Person Days in FY 20-21.** This means that total employment generated has increased by 27.2% in FY 20-21.
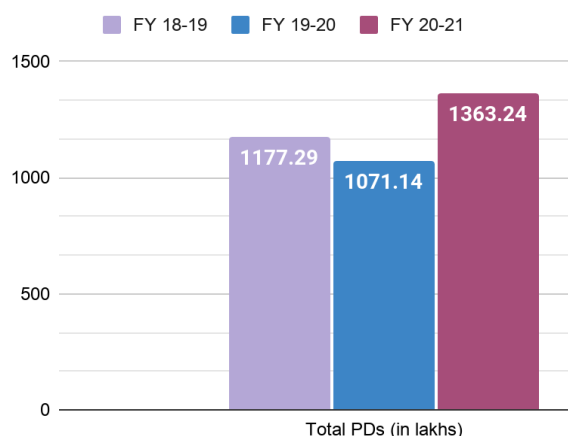
1.2.2 District-wise Employment

Figure 2: District-wise Person Days (in lakhs) for Last 3 FYs (In ascending order acc. to Person Days in FY 20-21)

Except for Peddapalli, J. Bhopalapally, and Warangal (Urban), every district generated more Person Days in FY 20-21, as compared to the last two years. Kamareddy generated the most employment by far, with 100.33 lakh Person Days; Medchal generated the least, at 1.64 lakh Person Days.

1.3 District-wise Household Data

Person Days data tells us that there was an increase in employment in nearly every district, but a closer look at household employment data (*Table 4*) shows that **only 6.65% of active households have completed 100 days of work**. On average, each household received **45.32 Person Days** of work this year. In contrast, average Person Days in FY 2018-19 were 46.53, and for FY 2019-20 were 43.28. In spite of huge upsurge in employment this year, the percentage of households that have completed 100 days of work are very low in each district, with only Kamareddy, Mahbubnagar, and R. Sirsilla crossing 10%. In 8 districts, less than 5% of households have completed 100 days of work, and Jayashankar Bhopalapally has completed 100 days in only 2.87% households.

Table 3: District-wise Household Employment Data (Sorted in ascending order acc. to avg PDs/HH)

District	Average Person Days per Household	Percentage of Households completed 100 days	No. of Mandals[4] with PDs per Household > state avg (45.3)	No. of Mandals with PDs per Household < state avg (45.3)
Medchal	30.80	5.54	0	5
Jayashanker Bhopalapally	33.79	2.87	1	10
Karimnagar	34.25	3.62	1	14
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	35.57	4.23	1	16
Warangal (Urban)	35.68	4.45	1	15
Mahabubabad	36.16	3.62	1	15
Warangal Rural	37.62	4.89	1	6
Peddapalli	37.77	5.17	2	11
Jogulamba Gadwal	38.92	6.3	0	12
Khammam	39.39	4.22	0	20
Mancherial	39.65	5.4	5	11

[4] Mandal: A Mandal is a sub-District unit.

Nalgonda	40.17	5.89	9	22
Kumram Bheem(Asifabad)	41.74	4.53	6	9
Jangaon	42.56	5.03	4	8
Jagtial	42.86	6.91	7	11
Narayanpet	43.7	8.74	5	6
Suryapet	43.81	5.63	10	13
Nagarkurnool	44.84	6.26	8	12
Nizamabad	46.56	7.47	16	11
Sangareddy	47.46	5.9	14	11
Mulugu	47.57	6.46	6	3
Mahabubnagar	47.73	10.07	8	6
Bhadradri Kothagudem	48.37	6.72	13	9
Medak	49.23	7.2	17	3
Rajanna Sirsilla	49.3	10.12	8	4
Nirmal	49.94	6.25	16	2
Wanaparthy	51.24	9.45	11	3
Adilabad	51.74	8.02	13	4
Siddipet	51.84	8.84	18	5
Rangareddy	54.33	9.49	14	7
Vikarabad	55.13	8.04	16	2
Kamareddy	62.66	15.61	22	0
Total/Average	**45.32**	**6.65**	**254**	**286**

Table 3 shows the extent to which the average person days vary - from around 38 days in Peddapalli to 63 days in Kamareddy. However, a deeper look shows that the performance at the Mandal level also varies extensively. So even in districts where employment generation is low, there are Mandals where high person days have been generated, and vice versa. Except for Kamareddy, every other district shows that employment generation in some mandals could be raised.

1.4 How have Different Worker Categories Fared?[5]

Job Card and Person Days data for the current year shows that TS witnessed a significant increase in MGNREGA participation and employment generation. However, this jump must be broken down to analyse the share of the increased employment that went to vulnerable communities like SC, ST, and women. For instance, at a national level, while there was a rise in MGNREGA participation, there was also a **decline in women's share of Person Days**. TS saw a similar decline in women Person Days, discussed in detail in this section.

1.4.1 Women

Women's participation in TS has also been above the national average, but it saw a decline this year. While in absolute numbers women Person Days went up by 134.11 lakhs and there was an increase of 32% in Person Days this year, **there was actually a 5.4% decrease in the share of women Person Days. Calculating the impact of this decline on wages in TS this year, women in fact lost out on more than 75 crores in wages.**

(*Formula used: Avg wage $_{FY21}$[(61.5%*Total PDs $_{FY21}$) - Women PDs $_{FY21}$])*

Figure 3: % Employment Generated by Women for Last 3 FYs

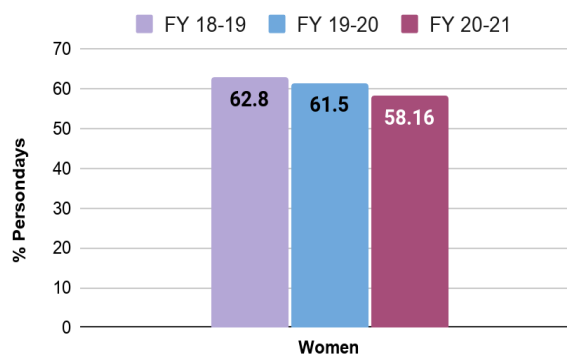*Table 4: Women Person Days over Last 3 FYs.*

FY	Total PDs	No. of Women PDs	% of Women PDs
18-19	1177.29	739.33	62.80
19-20	1071.14	658.75	61.50
20-21	1363.24	792.86	58.16

1.4.2 SC/ST

SC and ST participation in TS have tended to be higher than the national average, and both increased this year. SC Person Days saw an increase of more than 70 lakhs, and an increase of 12.95% in share of total Person Days. **The share of ST employment in particular saw an increase of nearly 13% this year, and an increase of 85 lakh Person Days.**

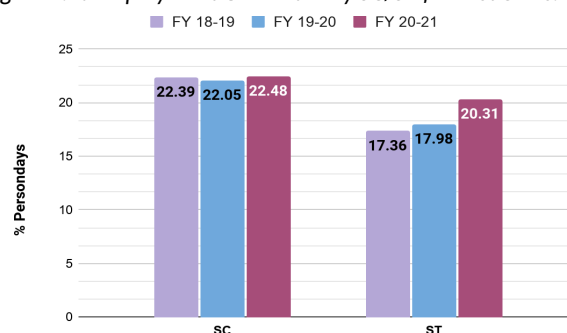*Figure 4: % Employment Generated by SC/ST for Last 3 FYs.*

Table 5: SC/ST Person Days (in lakhs) over Last 3 FYs.

FY	Total PDs	% of SC PDs	No. of SC PDs	% of ST PDs	No. of ST PDs
18-19	1177.29	22.39	263.59	17.36	204.37
19-20	1071.14	22.05	236.18	17.98	192.59
20-21	1363.24	22.48	306.45	20.31	277.69

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[5] The data in this section is annual for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20.

2. Wage Payments

2.1 Rejected & Suspended Wages

The MGNREG Act mandates workers be paid within 15 days of completion of work. However, wage payments often don't reach the worker's account due to technical reasons. In Telangana, these technical reasons are categorised as 'Rejected' or 'Suspended'. Rejected payments are those that are initiated from the centre, but are rejected due to technical errors like data entry - like a bounced check. Suspended Payments occur when there are no Aadhaar or bank account details mapped to the worker's Job Card. A worker's subsequent wage payments will also continue to get rejected/suspended if the error is not identified and resolved, and they will not receive any wages under MGNREGA.

State-Level Data

- TS ranks as the 22nd worst state at the all India level in terms of rejections.
- 1.55% of all transactions get rejected.
- 3.09% of nation-wide transactions, & 14.4% of nation-wide wages, is rejected in Telangana.
- Rs. 30 crore (3 Lakh transactions) is rejected.
- Rs. 3 crore (20 thousand workers) is suspended.

District-Level Data

The graph below provides district-wise rejected/suspended amounts for Telangana, for FY 20-21. **Rs. 3300 lakhs are currently rejected/suspended in Telangana, affecting more than 1.3 lakh workers**.

Figure 5: District-wise Rejected/Suspended Amount in Telangana (in lakhs) for FY 20-21.
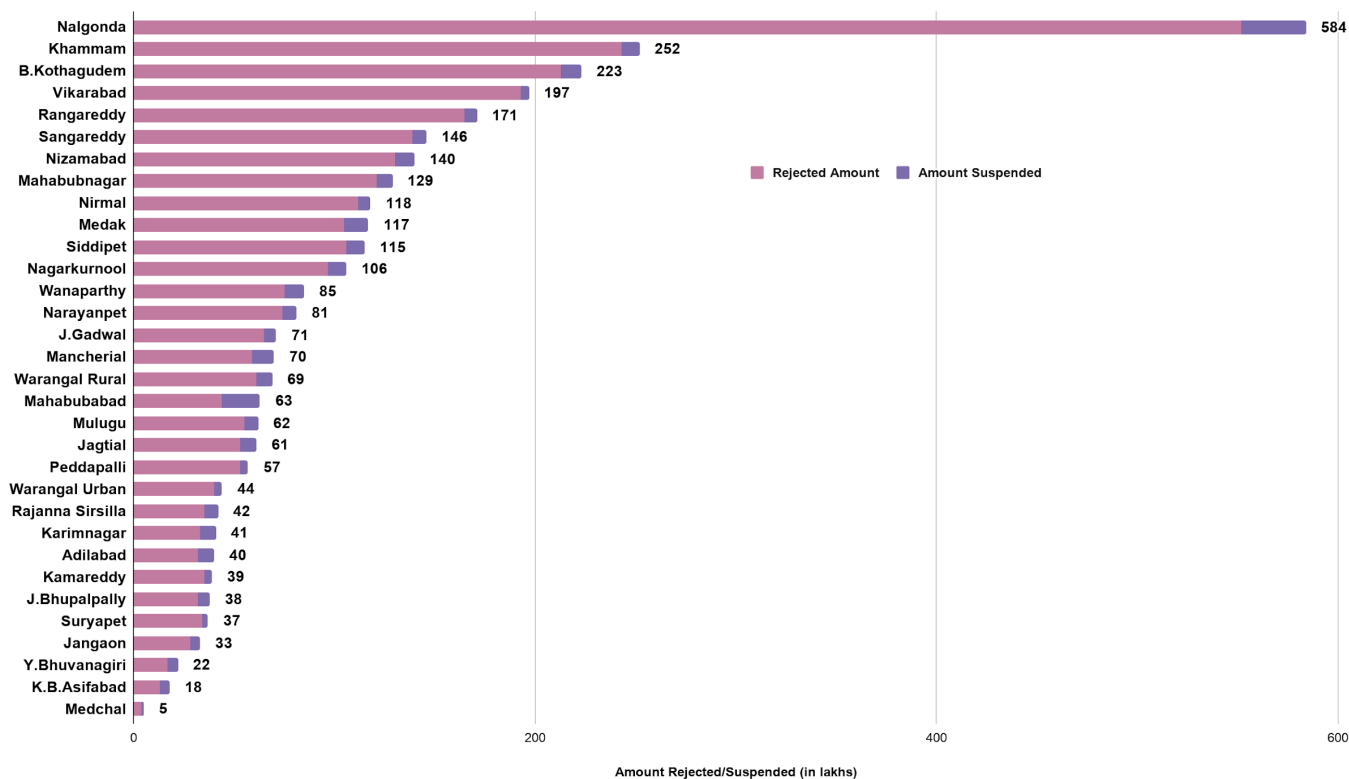
Nalgonda district has the highest amount of wages that are rejected/suspended by far. Job Card and employment data showed Nalgonda district provided the second-highest Person Days this year, and registered some of the highest number of Job Cards. However, its high failure rate of wage-payment means that many workers are not getting the wages to which they are entitled.

A clearly well performing district is Kamareddy - it generated the highest number of Person Days and Job Cards this year by far, each Mandal generated average Person Days greater than the state average, and it ranks 23rd in wages rejected/suspended, meaning that a relatively high number of workers are receiving their wages.

About LibTech India

We are a team of engineers, social workers, and social scientists who work towards improving public service delivery in India. We have been working as a team in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh for the last 8 years, although individually some of us have been working in the region for more than a decade.

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