Employment Status under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Telangana

April-September 2023

About this report

This report compiles data on Employment Generated in Telangana from Apr-Sep[1] 2023 (current year) and compares data for the preceding financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 for the same time period. The analysis relies on information downloaded from https://nrega.nic.in/ as of 06-10-2023. Our aim is to provide citizens and stakeholders with insights into the present status of MGNREGA implementation in Telangana.

[1] April to September

1. Key Statistics

The following table displays some important statistics for Telangana in comparison to the rest of the country for the period Apr-Sep 2023.

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

S.No.	Metric	Country	Telangana	Proportion of Telangana
1	Total Number of Districts	740	32	-
2	Total Number of Mandals(Blocks)	7,172	540	-
3	Total Number of Panchayats	2,69,553	12,771	-
4	Jobcards[2] Issued (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	1,466	52.92	3.60%
5	Total Number of Active Jobcards[3] (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	972	35.28	3.60%
6	Total Number of Active Workers[4] (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	1,433	60.77	4.20%
7	Persondays[5] Generated in FY 23-24 (crores)	188.02	8.14	4.30%
8	Total Households worked in FY 23-24(Lakhs)	1326.45	53.71	-
9	Unique Households worked in FY 23-24(Lakhs)	489	21.68	-
10	Average Persondays per Households(HH)[6]	38.43	37.56	-
11	Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment (lakhs)	6.79	0.14	-
12	Average Wage Rate per Day per Person	237.65	179.24	-
13	Unskilled wages earned by workers (Rupees in crores) as on 6th October 2023	44678.2	1459	-

[2] An authorised document issued by the Govt at Households level. Crucial for MGNREGA participation.
[3] A Jobcard with a record of at least one worker engaging in MGNREGA employment for a minimum of one day within the past three financial years
[4] A worker who has been engaged in MGNREGA employment for at least one day within the past three financial years
[5] Number of work days completed under MGNREGA by the jobcard holders
[6] Persondays Generated / Unique Households Worked

2. Employment at State Level

2.1 Analysis of Households participation

Table 2 : Comparative Analysis of MGNREGA Jobcard Issuance and Active Participation: FY 2023-24 vs. FY 2022-23

	Telangana			India		
	As on 6th October 2023	As on 6th October 2022[7]	Drop (%)	As on 6th October 2023	As on 6th October 2022	Drop (%)
Jobcards Issued (lakhs)	52.92	57.5	8	1466	1671	12.3
Total Number of Active Job cards (lakhs)	35.28	37.3	5.4	972	1016	4.3
Total Number of Active Workers (lakhs)	60.77	67.3	9.7	1433	1549	7.5

The employment scenario under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGN-REGA) for the fiscal year 2023-24 reveals a discernible decline both at the national level and specifically in Telangana compared to the preceding year. As of October 6, 2023, the number of jobcards issued witnessed an 8.0% decrease, dropping from 57.5 lakhs in the fiscal year 2022-23 to 52.92 lakhs in current year in Telangana. This is lower than the decline at the national level, where the decline in the number of issued jobcards is at 12.3%. However , the total number of active jobcards experienced a 5.4% reduction in Telangana, decreasing from 37.3 lakhs to 35.28 lakhs, higher than the decline at the national level at 4.3%. Furthermore, the overall number of active workers in the program saw a notable decline of 9.7% in Telangana, declining from 67.3 lakhs in the previous fiscal year to 60.77 lakhs as of October 6, 2023 whereas the decline nationally is significantly lower at 7.5%. These statistics indicate a significant contraction in the MGNREGA workforce, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive analysis to identify the factors contributing to this decline and to formulate strategies for revitalizing the program's participation.

2.1.1 Worker Deletions

In the fiscal year 2022-23, a considerable number of workers faced deletions from jobcards nationwide. As per the Ministry of Rural Development's response in Lok Sabha, the total tally of worker deletions amounted to 5.2 crores. Telangana experienced a significant impact, with approximately 17.3[7] lakh workers being deleted during the same period. Despite extensive media coverage exposing the unjust nature of these deletions in Telangana[8], one would expect the state to implement corrective measures to reinstate affected workers in the current fiscal year. However, data indicates that no significant shift has occurred, as the number of new workers added and deleted remains relatively unchanged this year. From Apr to Sep 2023-24, the program saw an addition of 134,487 workers. Nevertheless, the subsequent deletion of 120,281 workers during these six months resulted in a net increase of 14,206 workers overall(0.1%). This suggests that the fate of all genuine workers among the 17.3 lakh affected individuals hangs in the balance. (For detailed District level net deletions data please refer to Annexure 2).

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[7] http://libtech.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/TS-MGNREGA-Tracker-April-to-Sept-2022_Eng.pdf
[8] In FY 22-23, there was a deletion of 17.3 lakh workers, and an inclusion of 1.8 lakh workers occurred during the same time frame.
[9] https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/apbs-behind-record-deletion-of-job-cards-workers-from-mgnregs/article66766848.ece
https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/why-lakhs-nrega-workers-are-still-ineligible-wages-under-aadhaar-based-system-181226

2.2 Comprehensive Analysis of Employment Metrics and Trends

17.9% dip in persondays generated in FY 2023-24 when compared to the same period in FY 2022-23.

Ideally, MGNREGA, as a demand-driven employment program, should align with the workers' demand, evident in the number of Households employed and workdays generated. However, the central government's stringent control over budget allocations and states' varying political will and administrative capacities highlight the significance of employment-related figures as vital indicators of NREGA effectiveness. Evaluating MGNREGA employment performance involves considering metrics such as Number of Households employed, participation of vulnerable Households, average persondays of employment generated and number of Households completing 100 days.

Telangana MGNREGA Performance (Apr-Sep 2023-24):

- **Persondays Decline:** MGNREGA workers in Telangana generated 8.14 crore persondays, marking a 17.9% decrease from the previous year's 9.92 crore persondays. This decline becomes more significant when contrasted with the 29.3% drop from FY 2021-22, where 11.52 crore persondays were generated.

National Perspective: (Refer Table 3)

- **Nationwide Employment Trends:** On a national level, there is a 15.9% increase in the number of Households employed in FY 2023-24 compared to the same period in 2022-23.
- **Overall Persondays Uptick:** Nationally, there is a 13.5% increase in persondays generated compared to FY 2022-23.

Contrast and Attention Call:

- **Unique Telangana Scenario:** The contrasting trends between Telangana's decline and the national upsurge in persondays generated suggest a noteworthy situation that demands the attention of the state government.

Table 3 : Employment trends at National level

		Apr-Sep 21-22 (In Lakhs)	Apr-Sep 22-23 (In Lakhs)	Apr-Sep 23-24 (In Lakhs)	Increase (%) Apr-Sep 21-22 & Apr-Sep 23-24[10]	Increase (%) Apr-Sep 22-23 & Apr-Sep 23-24[11]
India	Total Households worked	1415.96	1144.16	1326.45	-6.3	15.9
	Persondays Generated	21003.22	16572.17	18802.55	-10.5	13.5

[10] Increase (%) Apr-Sep 21-22 & Apr-Sep 23-24 = (((Apr-Sep 23-24) - (Apr- Sep 21-22))/(Apr-Sep 21-22))*100
[11] Increase (%) Apr-Sep 22-23 & Apr-Sep 23-24 = (((Apr-Sep 23-24) - (Apr- Sep 22-23))/(Apr-Sep 22-23))*100

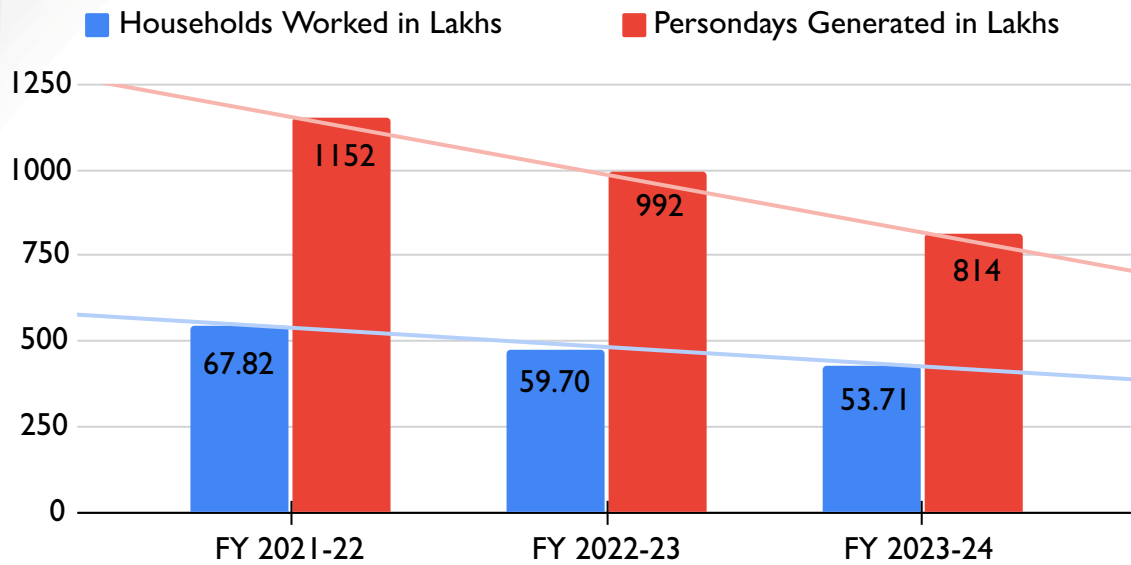# Number of Households Worked and Personsdays Generated in the last three years

Figure 1: Employment Trends (Apr-Sep Yearly Comparison) at State Level.
Please note that this graph is not to scale.

2.3 Employment at District Level

In comparison to Apr-Sep 2022-23, only three districts (Jagityal, Nalgonda, Sangareddy) had an increase in the number of personsdays created, while the remaining 29 of the 32 districts saw a loss in Apr-Sep 2023-24. Figure 2 illustrates trends by district.

As shown in figure 2, the biggest drops were observed in Mulugu (51.2%), Medchal (51.1%), and Kamareddy (47.5%), while Sangareddy (14.4%) experienced the highest rise.
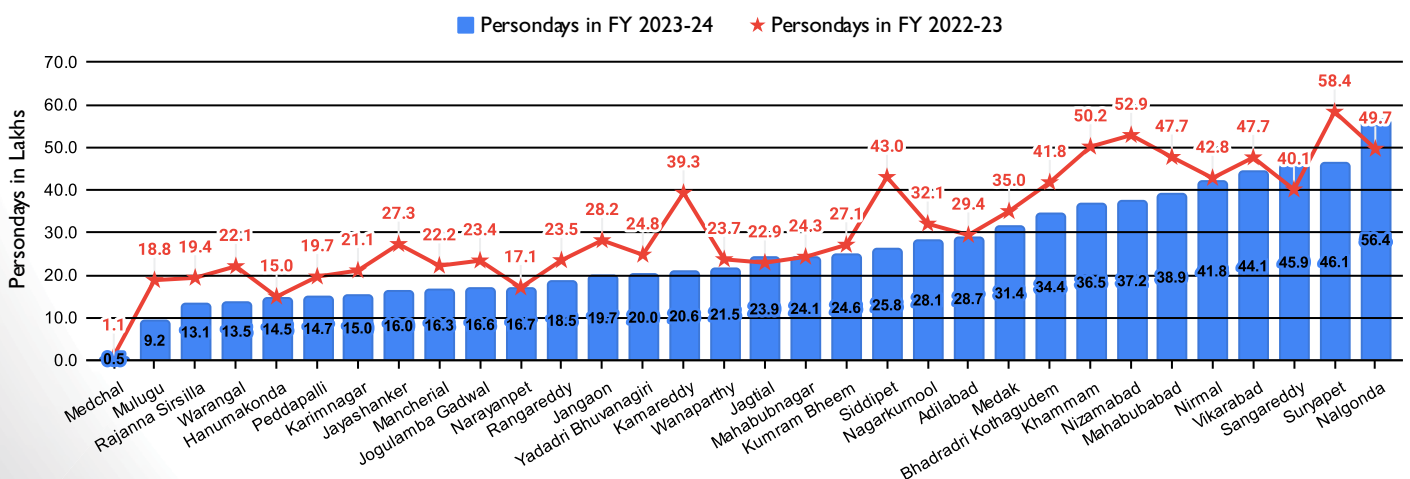

Figure 2: District-wise personsdays comparison of Apr-Sep 2023-24 and Apr-Sep 2022-23

2.4 Employment Trend in Apr-Sep 2023-24 for Different Categories of Workers

While there is a decrease in MGNREGA participation at the state level this year compared to last year, the SC, ST, and Other categories also show a similar pattern. The 'Others' group had the highest rate of person-days reduction (18.9%), followed by the ST group (16.6%) and the SC group (16.5%).

Table 4 shows the persondays generated and percentage decrease for the three categories over the last two fiscal years for the same time period.

Table 4 : Employment trend for SC's, ST's and Other's

Group of Workers	Persondays in Lakhs		Drop in %
	Apr-Sep 2023-24	Apr-Sep 2022-23	
SC	176.93	211.81	16.5
ST	170.64	204.54	16.6
Others	466.79	575.63	18.9
Total	814.36	991.98	17.9

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the data on persondays generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) reveals notable shifts in the engagement of different worker groups. A significant observation is the overall decline in persondays by 17.9% compared to the preceding fiscal year. Specifically, Scheduled Caste (SC) workers contributed 176.93 lakh persondays, reflecting a 16.5% reduction from the previous year. Similarly, Scheduled Tribe (ST) workers generated 170.64 lakh persondays, experiencing a 16.6% drop. The category labelled as 'Others' witnessed a substantial decrease of 18.9%, accounting for 466.79 lakh persondays. These figures indicate a widespread decline in MGNREGA participation across various demographic groups, warranting a closer examination of the factors contributing to this notable decrease in persondays.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) implementation in Telangana for the fiscal year 2023-24 reveals a concerning trend of significant declines in key indicators. The reduction in the number of jobcards issued by 8.0%, active jobcards by 5.4%, and active workers by 9.7% underscores the challenges faced by the program. This contraction in the MGNREGA workforce, both at the national level and specifically in Telangana, necessitates urgent attention and strategic interventions.

The report also highlights a substantial 17.9% dip in persondays generated at the state level in FY 2023-24 compared to the same period in FY 2022-23. This decline is more pronounced when compared to FY 2021-22, marking a substantial drop of around 29.3%. The district-level analysis further illustrates the challenges, with the majority of districts experiencing a loss in persondays, particularly in Mulugu, Medchal, and Kamareddy.

Examining different categories of workers reveals a consistent pattern of decline, with different social groups experiencing personday reduction. The overall decline in persondays across various demographic groups underscores the need for a deeper examination of contributing factors.

In essence, this report serves as a call to action, urging policymakers and stakeholders to collaboratively address the multifaceted challenges faced by the MGNREGA program in Telangana. The decline in employment indicators emphasizes the importance of strategic interventions and a comprehensive approach to revitalize the program, ensuring its effectiveness in providing livelihood support to the vulnerable sections of society. The report also raises concerns about net deletions in the previous fiscal year, with a substantial number of workers being deleted from jobcards, necessitating corrective measures for reinstatement in the current fiscal year.

Annexure 1:

S.No	District Name	Persondays by Scheduled Castes (Apr - Sep)		Persondays by Scheduled Tribes (Apr - Sep)		Persondays by Others(Apr - Sep)		Total Persondays (Apr - Sep)	
		2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23
1	Adilabad	481561	510646	1507759	1368570	884080	1065239	2873400	2944455
2	Bhadradri Kothagudem	355417	470463	2089689	2496769	990919	1213514	3436025	4180746
3	Hanumakonda	363583	385019	48245	37203	1035861	1073470	1447689	1495692
4	Jagtial	606036	596632	155358	143934	1630969	1553017	2392363	2293583
5	Jangaon	378680	555277	428705	642361	1166862	1621379	1974247	2819017
6	Jayashanker Bhopalapally	401404	675196	246966	355388	956508	1698544	1604878	2729128
7	Jogulamba Gadwal	411848	560431	18557	34500	1229801	1747591	1660206	2342522
8	Kamareddy	439529	726853	368351	718958	1255764	2487883	2063644	3933694
9	Karimnagar	443243	605858	9939	14955	1044118	1489324	1497300	2110137
10	Khammam	871586	1222785	939331	1167945	1835716	2627382	3646633	5018112
11	Kumram Bheem (Asifabad)	417019	494416	840621	872053	1200113	1347195	2457753	2713664
12	Mahabubabad	432770	516491	1846068	2402778	1607663	1855388	3886501	4774657
13	Mahabubnagar	383283	362024	386926	443589	1643632	1625801	2413841	2431414
14	Mancherial	546294	743770	298253	382435	786769	1097080	1631316	2223285
15	Medak	561213	629145	450802	504357	2128873	2369216	3140888	3502718
16	Medchal	14522	34370	967	2813	36958	70020	52447	107203
17	Mulugu	152988	311271	397237	715757	369024	856536	919249	1883564
18	Nagarkurnool	798826	882133	494788	548084	1515858	1777578	2809472	3207795
19	Nalgonda	1071350	900265	1313647	1240027	3258207	2827664	5643204	4967956
20	Narayanpet	275748	250356	102685	116730	1295469	1342973	1673902	1710059
21	Nirmal	850114	884834	933417	800251	2392392	2597620	4175923	4282705
22	Nizamabad	817400	1132614	671947	912893	2228585	3244250	3717932	5289757
23	Peddapalli	324991	427185	64761	70709	1082983	1468979	1472735	1966873
24	Rajanna Sirsilla	350779	503309	161421	243789	794866	1191543	1307066	1938641
25	Rangareddy	616162	727742	246172	332629	989811	1290261	1852145	2350632
26	Sangareddy	1535022	1342699	644354	620152	2409480	2049215	4588856	4012066
27	Siddipet	559519	949582	126390	178347	1896410	3175925	2582319	4303854
28	Suryapet	901583	1100947	953993	1325721	2753003	3410617	4608579	5837285
29	Vikarabad	1328620	1430488	536181	578092	2547927	2756505	4412728	4765085
30	Wanaparthy	339609	369372	220945	271301	1585647	1732211	2146201	2372884
31	Warangal	234803	348599	319470	611349	791723	1249413	1345996	2209361
32	Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	427463	529996	240390	299995	1332626	1649980	2000479	2479971

Annexure 2:

S.No	District	FY 23-24			
		Deleted Households (Apr - Sep)	Deleted Workers (Apr - Sep)	Included Households (Apr - Sep)	Included Workers (Apr - Sep)
1	Adilabad	792	3064	2399	6510
2	Bhadradri Kothagudem	848	4224	1964	5327
3	Hanumakonda	1120	3191	799	2655
4	Jagtial	1167	3107	2115	4884
5	Jangaon	702	3094	981	2393
6	Jayashanker Bhopalapally	349	1942	1393	4217
7	Jogulamba Gadwal	424	3154	700	2771
8	Kamareddy	1267	4479	1377	4405
9	Karimnagar	803	2506	915	1991
10	Khammam	551	3366	1764	5322
11	Kumram Bheem(Asifabad)	548	2132	981	2499
12	Mahabubabad	1513	6486	3063	9782
13	Mahabubnagar	834	1926	1960	4120
14	Mancherial	447	1694	827	2241
15	Medak	549	1897	1724	5292
16	Medchal	27	28	156	169
17	Mulugu	1767	7802	487	1706
18	Nagarkurnool	1256	4808	3513	8222
19	Nalgonda	1199	6414	2015	7861
20	Narayanpet	591	1718	1115	2770
21	Nirmal	1596	5666	3084	8550
22	Nizamabad	1242	5154	1619	4358
23	Peddapalli	175	1012	619	1717
24	Rajanna Sirsilla	147	620	838	2055
25	Rangareddy	1309	3209	1270	2328
26	Sangareddy	5100	12166	2501	5854
27	Siddipet	671	2172	894	2885
28	Suryapet	2679	11813	2047	7907
29	Vikarabad	483	2403	1649	5701
30	Wanaparthy	1455	5551	1271	3618
31	Warangal	633	2602	573	1884
32	Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	235	881	1403	2493

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