

Date 15-4-2025

Andhra Pradesh's MGNREGA Employment Drops Sharply in FY 2024–25 Despite More Households Registering, Reveals LibTech India Tracker

 17 15 April 2025 |

LibTech India's latest data-driven assessment of MGNREGA implementation in Andhra Pradesh for FY 2024–25 reveals a concerning trend: while the number of households registering for the program has increased, the provision of work has sharply declined, accompanied by rising wage gaps. The report compares Andhra Pradesh's performance with data from the previous year and situates the findings by looking at national-level statistics, which highlight both regional disparities and some relatively positive trends in comparison. The analysis is based on official government data as of 7 April 2024.

Key Findings from the Report:

Increase in MGNREGA Registrations, Minimal Change in Employment:

Household registrations under MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh rose by **3.1%**, but this was not matched by actual employment. Unique households that worked **increased by 0.8%**, and total workers employed **declined by 0.3%**.

➤ *Nationally*, the number of households that worked **declined by 3.5%**, meaning AP slightly outperformed in maintaining household participation.

Persondays Generated See Bigger Fall in AP:

Andhra Pradesh saw a **5.2%** decline in persondays generated, a worrying drop even as national persondays fell by **7%**.

➤ The decline in AP is notable because household participation stayed stable—suggesting constraints in work provision, not registration.

Steeper Decline in Employment Than National Average:

Average employment per household in AP dropped by **6%** (from 54.89 to 51.62), compared to a **national decline of 3.6%**.

➤ This points to a greater erosion of work availability in AP than at national level.

✘ Sharp Drop in Full-Year Employment Outpaces National Trend:

➤ Percentage of Households completing 100 days of work declined from 14.8% to 10.9% in AP, compared to 7.5% to 7% drop at the national level.

🌐 District-Level Disparities Across Andhra Pradesh:

17 of 26 districts in AP saw a fall in persondays.

➤ *Vizianagaram* recorded the sharpest decline at **17.8%**, while *Sri Sathya Sai* district recorded an **18.2%** increase.

➤ Worryingly, employment declined in 4 out of the 6 drought-affected districts, despite their high vulnerability (Prakasam, Kurnool, YSR Kadapa, Nandyal). In contrast, Satya Sai and Anantapur districts saw an increase in employment.

📅 July 17 Mid-Year Employment Crash After MoRD Advisory:

April 2024 began strongly, with **52.3% more persondays** than April 2023. But July saw a **56.4% drop** compared to July 2023.

➤ This mid-year slump followed a Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) advisory issued on **7 May 2024** regarding non-compliance with expenditure norms.

➤ While persondays rebounded in the ****second half of FY 2024–25****—with September to February consistently outperforming the same months in the previous year—this recovery did not fully offset the early-year decline.

💰 Wage Realization Worsens Despite Notified Wage Hike:

Andhra Pradesh workers faced a **14% shortfall** between notified and received wages—up from **9.7%** last year.

➤ This gap led to workers being paid **₹661 crore less** than they were entitled to.

➤ *National discussions have spotlighted the widening wage gap issue, but AP's increase in shortfall is among the sharper ones.*

👛 Household Incomes Decline in Real Terms:

➤ ₹294 drop in average MGNREGA income per household this year, compared to the previous year, from ₹13,484 to ₹13,190, reflects the reduced wage realization.

➤ ₹1,531 potential loss in household income if the earlier wage realization rate had been maintained, which would have brought the income to ₹14,721.

✚ Turnaround in Jobcard and Worker Deletions:

For the first time since FY 2021–22, net additions outnumbered deletions in AP:

- **1.95 lakh Jobcards** and **2.72 lakh workers** were added.
- *Nationally*, India also saw a reversal of mass deletions with net additions of over **1 crore Jobcards** and **1.19 crore workers**—a key shift from exclusion to re-inclusion.

📌 About the Report:

This tracker is part of LibTech India's ongoing effort to monitor and analyse the delivery of MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh and other states. The goal is to inform citizens, policymakers, and media with accessible and rigorous data insights.

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