

LibTech India
MGNREGA in Jharkhand: A Data Driven Assessment For
FY 2024-25



Email: vivek.gupta@libtech.in | 8873341415



<http://libtech.in/>



[@LibtechIndia](https://twitter.com/LibtechIndia)



[@libtechindia](https://www.facebook.com/libtechindia)

About LibTech

LibTech operates as a centre under the parent organization Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD). We are a team of engineers, social workers, and social scientists who are interested in improving public service delivery in India. We have been working as a team in multiple states of the country, including Jharkhand, for more than 10 years—though individually, some of us have been involved for even longer.

Over the years, we have been consistently releasing reports on the implementation of MGNREGA at the national and state level. We will release the Jharkhand MGNREGA tracker for the second time, which was earlier released for FY 2020-21. Some of our reports have been quoted, and our policy recommendations have been engaged with and, in some cases, acted upon by state governments and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), reflecting the impact of our work on shaping conversations around welfare governance.

About this report

This report analyses the implementation of MGNREGA in Jharkhand during FY 2024-25, with reference to data from the previous financial year, 2023-24. The data, sourced from <https://nrega.nic.in> as of May 8, 2025, provides valuable insights into the current status of the program in the state. We also draw on national-level trends to contextualize Jharkhand's performance. The objective is to inform citizens and stakeholders about key trends and developments in the program's execution.

1. Key Findings

- ❖ Despite the **5.2% increase in household registration, households worked and workers employed declined by 7.4% and 9.7%** respectively in FY 2024-25 when compared to FY 2023-24. This indicates that even though more households want to participate in the program, an increase in registration did not translate into employment. **Section 2.1**
- ❖ Overall employment in the state declined; unique households that worked and persondays generated **dropped by 7.4% and 8.0%** respectively. Households completing 100 days of employment significantly **declined by 18%** in FY 2024-25. **Section 2.2**
- ❖ **20 districts recorded a decline**, while only 4 districts recorded an increase in the number of persondays generated in FY 2024-25. **Sahebganj recorded the highest drop of 27%**, whereas **Garhwa district had the highest increase of 2.7% in persondays**. The four most populated tribal districts show a negative trend in persondays generated. **Section 2.3**
- ❖ Persondays **sharply decreased in the months of July and August**, likely because of heavy and timely onset of monsoon in the current year. But it showed strong recovery from October to January. **Section 2.4**
- ❖ Both **Scheduled Tribes(ST) and Scheduled Castes(SC) participation** are low compared to their population share, compounded by a marginal decline in FY 2024-25. This stands in contrast with national level participation where the STs are overrepresented. **Section 2.5**
- ❖ Jobcard and worker **deletion has decreased** in FY 2024-25 from the previous year. However, the jobcard and workers addition has **significantly increased in both fiscal years**. **Section 3**
- ❖ **Rs 95.2 crore** unskilled wage expenditure declined in FY 2024-25. **Section 4.1**

- ❖ Despite an increase in notified wages under MGNREGS in FY 2024-25, workers continued to receive around **10% less than** what they were entitled to, reducing their actual income. **Section 4.2**

2. Employment at the State Level

As a demand-driven employment program, MGNREGA is intended to respond to the needs of workers seeking wage employment. However, in recent years, the Union government's tight control over budget allocations—combined with uneven political will and administrative capacity across states—has significantly influenced the program's implementation. These constraints directly affect how effectively MGNREGA operates on the ground.

Given this context, it becomes essential to analyse employment-related data to assess how the program is functioning in Jharkhand. In the following section, we examine key employment metrics for the financial year 2024–25, comparing them with data from 2023–24. We also refer to national-level trends to situate Jharkhand's performance in a broader context. Metrics related to employment generation, participation of vulnerable communities, and budget utilization serve as key indicators to evaluate the program's performance

2.1 Household and Worker Trends Under MGNREGA

-Despite the 5.2% increase in household registration, households worked and workers employed declined by 7.4% and 9.7% respectively in FY 2024-25 when compared to FY 2023-24.

In 2024-25, Jharkhand saw a significant increase in the number of households registering under MGNREGA. Household registrations in the state increased by 5.2% in FY 2024-25, indicating that more households are looking to access the program.

However, despite the increase in the number of household registrations, the number of households that worked and workers employed in the program have declined by 7.4% and 9.7%, respectively, in FY 2024-25. This indicates that the increase in registration did not translate into actual employment.

	FY 2023-24 (1)	FY 2024-25 (2)	% Drop in the State [(1-2)/1*100] ¹
Households Registered (in Lakhs)	69.6	73.2	-5.2
Unique Households worked (in Lakhs)	21.8	20.2	7.4
Workers employed (in Lakhs)	25.6	23.1	9.7

Table 1: Households and worker trends for FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 in Jharkhand.

2.2 Persondays Generated: FY 2023-24 Vs FY 2024-25

- *Overall employment in the state declined, and households completing 100 days of employment significantly declined in FY 2024-25.*

The comparative data indicate a decline in both participation and intensity of employment. Not only have the number of households declined, more significantly, the number of households completing the full 100 days of guaranteed employment declined by 18% in the state. Number of persondays of work generated have declined by 8%. This suggests not only lower overall engagement but also reduced duration of employment per household. The state level decline is higher than the national average, except average persondays, which dropped slightly by 0.6%, whereas nationally the drop was 3.5%. The data points to possible constraints in work availability or lower demand.

¹ A negative value represents an improved trend while the positive value represents a drop in the performance.

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	% Drop in the State	% Drop in the Country
Unique Households worked ² (in Lakhs)	21.8	20.2	7.4	3.5
Persondays Generated (in lakhs) ³	1097.1	1009.5	8.0	6.9
Average Persondays ⁴	50.2	49.9	0.6	3.5
Households completed 100 days of employment (in Lakhs) ⁵	1	0.8	18	9.3

Table 2: Employment Trends in JH for FY 2023-24 and 2024-25

2.3 Employment at District Level

- 20 districts observed a decline, while only 4 districts observed an increase in the number of persondays generated in FY 2024-25. The 4 most populated tribal districts show a negative trend in persondays generation.

Figure 1 suggests that out of 24 districts in Jharkhand, 20 districts faced decreases in MGNREGA persondays generated in FY 2024-25. Sahebganj, Jamatara, Ramgarh and Lohardaga experienced the highest decline of 27%, 22.9%, 18.6%, and 18.5% respectively. However, amidst this overall negative trend, only Garhwa district saw a significant rise by 2.7% and there were small increases in three districts, Ranchi, Dhanbad and East Singhbhum, with 1.3%, 0.7% and 0.3% respectively.

The 4 districts with high tribal population, Khunti, Simdega, Gumla, and West Singhbhum, have seen a negative trend; the total persondays in these districts declined by 8.8%, 11.6%, 10.7%, and 5.8% respectively.

² Jobcards and households are used interchangeably in this report

³ Total number of work days completed under MGNREGS by the Job card holders

⁴ Average Persondays= (Persondays Generated / Unique Households worked)

⁵ Drop percent = (Households completed 100 days of employment / Unique Households worked)*100

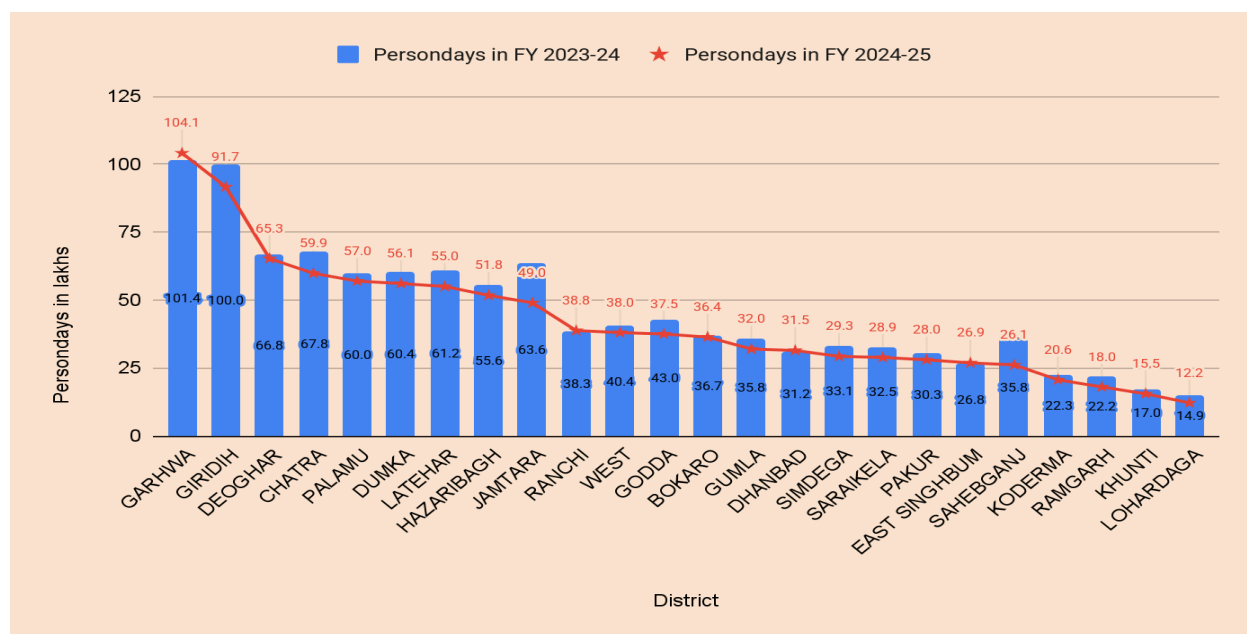


Figure 1: District-wise persondays comparison of FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25

2.4 Month-wise Persondays Generated in Jharkhand

- *There was a very sharp decline in persondays after May, but it increased significantly from October to January in FY 2024-25.*

Figure 2 shows the trends in month-wise persondays generation for FY 2024-25 compared to the previous year. While FY 2024-25 began with a higher figure in April (132.9 lakh), it saw sharp declines during the monsoon months, reaching a low of just 11.9 lakh persondays in August 2024. The difference in rainfall patterns in both the years could be a potential reason for the different trends in month-wise persondays. Heavy and timely onset of monsoon in the current year could have led to this sharp decline.

However, FY 2024-25 showed a strong recovery from October onwards, consistently outperforming the previous year in the last quarter. By January, persondays peaked at 110.1 lakh compared to 67.8 lakh in FY 2023-24 and even surpassed the record of 97.9 lakh in FY 2020-21 at Covid times.

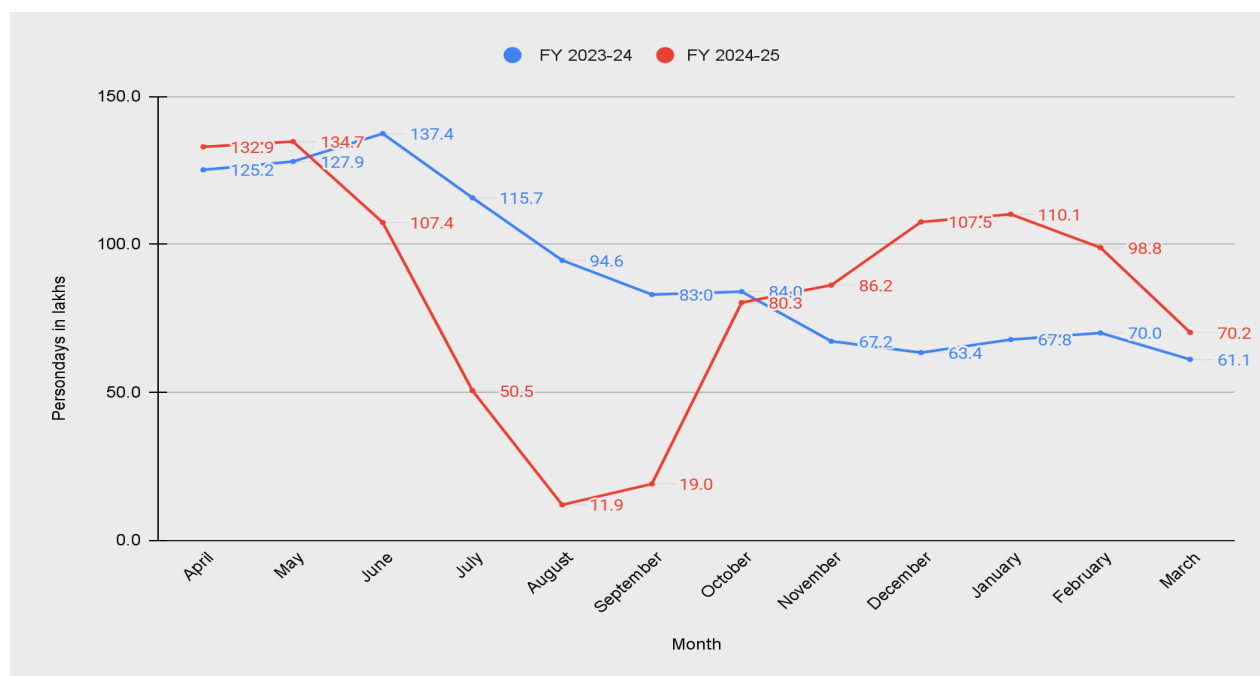


Figure 2: Month-wise comparison of persondays generated in FY 2023-24 and 2024-25

This recovery is surprising in light of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that was in force during October to December due to legislative assembly elections. During this time, field observations from the 'Kaam Maango Abhiyan'—a civil society campaign across 32 blocks—indicated that officials were refusing to process job demand applications citing MCC restrictions. Given this, the surge in workdays during the same period warrants closer scrutiny. Further field inquiry is necessary to understand these patterns.

2.5 Vulnerable Group Participation Fluctuations

- *Both Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste participation in MGNREGA is low compared to their population share and saw a marginal decline in the current year.*

MGNREGA plays an important role in providing livelihood security for SC and ST populations. In Jharkhand, however, both groups continue to be underrepresented in terms of persondays generated. As per Census 2011, Scheduled Castes constitute 12% of the state's population but accounted for only 9% of total persondays in FY 2024–25. Similarly, Scheduled Tribes, who make up 26% of Jharkhand's population, contributed just 23% of the persondays. This stands in contrast to national trends, where STs—despite comprising only 8.6% of the population—accounted for approximately 18% of persondays under MGNREGA in the same

year (as per MIS data). This contrast highlights that Jharkhand's ST participation in MGNREGA is lower than both their state population share and the national average for ST participation.

2.6 Women and Men Participation Fluctuations

- *Women participation slightly increased but employment dropped*

In Jharkhand, the gendered share of participation in MGNREGA stands almost equal, with women doing 49% of the work and men doing 51% for the work. However, due to the overall decline in persondays generated, women's employment in MGNREGA has seen a 6.1% drop in person-days since last year despite a marginal rise in share. Decline in men's share of employment is compounded by the overall decline in persondays, indicated by a 9.7% drop in persondays since the last year.

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	% Drop in the State ⁶
Persondays Generated by women (in lakhs) ⁷	526.6	494.7	6.1
Persondays Generated by men (in Lakhs) ⁸	570.5	514.9	9.7

Table 3: Women and Men persondays generated

3. Net Deletions of Workers

- *Inclusion of workers and jobcards outnumbered deletion both at the centre and state levels.*

In Table 3, a significant rise is seen in the number of jobcards and workers added in both financial years. While this may appear to reflect the initial steps towards restoration, it could also be the consequence of the earlier wrongful deletion. Many workers who were removed from the system may have reapplied for fresh jobcards rather than being formally reinstated. This needs verification.

It remains important to ensure that genuine workers who seek work are not only able to re-enter the system but are also able to do so through proper restoration mechanisms. Continuous monitoring and course correction will be essential to uphold the entitlements of workers.

⁶ (Difference between Persondays generated in 2023-24 & 2024-25/ Persondays generated in 2023-24)*100

⁷ Total number of work days completed under MGNREGS by women

⁸ Total number of work days completed under MGNREGS by men

	Jobcards Deleted (Lakhs)	Jobcards Added (Lakhs)	Net Jobcard Deletions (Lakhs) ⁹	Workers Deleted (Lakhs)	Workers Added (Lakhs)	Net Worker Deletions (Lakhs) ¹⁰
Jharkhand (2023-24)	3.2	8.2	-5.0	6.6	10.0	-3.4
Jharkhand (2024-25)	1.8	5.3	-3.6	3.6	6.4	- 2.8
India (2024-25)	39.3	154.6	-115.3	113	233.2	-120.2

Table 4: Net jobcard and worker deletions for FY 2024-25: Jharkhand vs India

4. Jharkhand Wage Expenditure Status

4.1 Income Generation of Households

- *Despite an increase in notified wages under MGNREGA in FY 2024-25, workers continued to receive around 10% less than what they were entitled to, reducing their actual income.*

The data highlights a persistent gap between notified and actual wages, with workers receiving around 10% less than the notified wage rate in both FY 2023-24 and 2024-25. Notified wages increased from Rs 255 to Rs 272, including a Rs 27 wage from the state government. The average household income under MGNREGA improved by Rs 768, driven primarily by the hike in notified wages. However, as per the notified wage, the average household income could be increased by Rs 1361 in FY 2024-25.

This shortfall points to systemic issues in wage realisation—likely linked to work measurement practices or under-reporting of actual work done. Addressing this gap is critical not only for ensuring fair compensation to workers but also for maximizing the impact of budgetary allocations under MGNREGA.

⁹ Net Jobcards Deleted = Deleted Jobcards - Added Jobcards

¹⁰ Net Workers Deleted= Deleted Workers - Added Workers

FY	Notified wages (Rs) 1	Received wages (Rs) 2	Drop(%) ¹¹ [(1-2)/1*100]	Average Person days	MGNREGA Household Income (Rs) ¹²	Potential Income ¹³
2023-24	255	228	10.6	50.2	11449	12806
2024-25	272	245	10	49.9	12217	13578

Table 5: Comparison of MGNREGA Wages and Household Income

4.2 Unskilled Wage Expenditure

- Unskilled wage expenditure declined by Rs 95.2 crore in FY 2024-25 when compared to FY 2023-24.

Despite the increase in notified wages, the actual wage expenditure has seen a decline of Rs 95.2 crore (3.4%) in FY 2024-25 compared to the previous year. In FY 2023-24, the actual wage expenditure stood at Rs 2822 crore, which decreased to Rs 2726.8 crore in FY 2024-25. Due unskilled wages increased from 7.1 crore in 2023-24 to 13.6 crore in 2024-25.

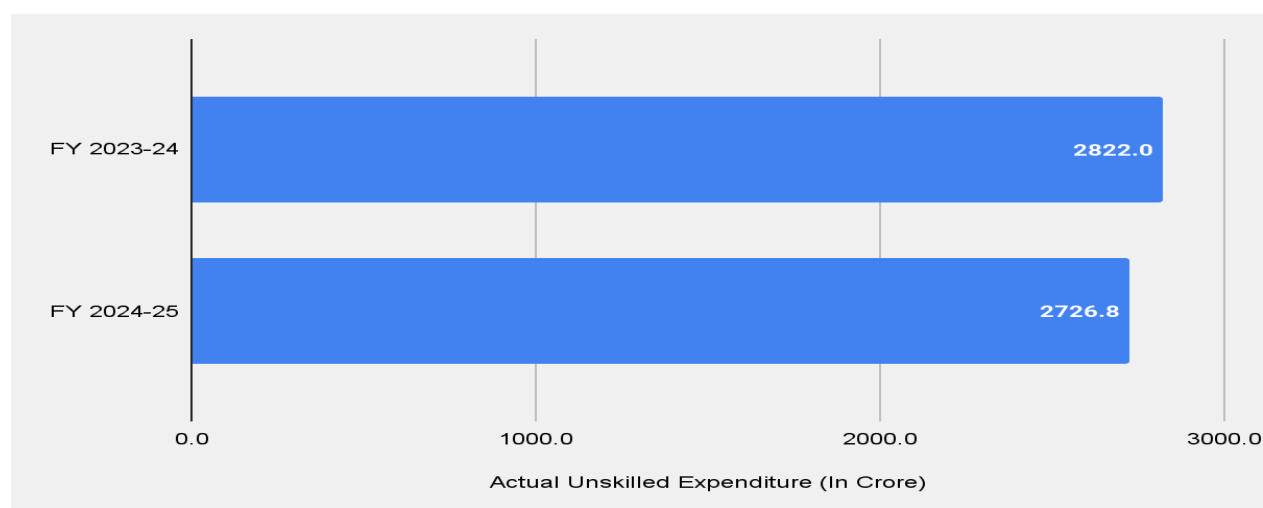


Figure 3 : Unskilled Wage Expenditure in FY 2023-24 and 2024-25

¹¹ Notified wages(Rs)-Received wages(Rs)

¹² MGNREGA Household Income = Received wages * Average Person days

¹³ Potential Household Earning= Notifies wages * Average Person days

Conclusion

This data-driven annual assessment of MGNREGA implementation in Jharkhand reveals a mixed picture. Positive net addition of workers, that is, more workers being added than deleted, reflects continued administrative efforts to reduce exclusions in the scheme.

Employment shows distinct geographical patterns with Garhwa, Ranchi and Dhanbad showing high levels of MGNREGA employment and Ramgarh, Khunti and Lohardaga being at the tail end. This calls for targeted interventions in areas with low employment.

However, issues such as a gap in the utilisation of work demand remain. Rising registrations and falling actual employment point to structural barriers in demand being converted to job opportunities. Heavy and timely rainfall may have factored into a sharp decline of persondays in the first half of FY 2024-25. However, there was strong recovery between October 2024-January 2025.

The consistent underrepresentation of SC and ST population poses concerns regarding the inclusivity of the scheme in the State, especially when compared with the overrepresentation at the national level. This is compounded by the slight decline in SC/ST participation in the current year.

Overall, while administrative corrections like net worker addition are underway, Jharkhand's MGNREGA implementation still faces critical issues—particularly in work allocation, equitable participation, timely payments, and actual realization of employment guarantees on the ground.

For one of India's poorest states, ensuring the full and fair implementation of MGNREGA is not just a matter of policy—it is a lifeline for rural survival.

Team Behind This Report:

Devahuti Sarkar | Manisha Diggi | Vivek Gupta

Annexure 1

In Lakh

S. No	District	Persondays in FY 2023-24 (1)	Persondays in FY 2024-25 (2)	% Drop in Persondays [(1-2)/1*100]
1	SAHEBGANJ	35.8	26.1	27.0
2	JAMTARA	63.6	49.0	22.9
3	RAMGARH	22.2	18.0	18.6
4	LOHARDAGA	14.9	12.2	18.5
5	GODDA	43.0	37.5	12.8
6	CHATRA	67.8	59.9	11.8
7	SIMDEGA	33.1	29.3	11.6
8	SARAIKELA KHARSAWAN	32.5	28.9	11.0
9	GUMLA	35.8	32.0	10.7
10	LATEHAR	61.2	55.0	10.1
11	KHUNTI	17.0	15.5	8.8
12	GIRIDIH	100.0	91.7	8.3
13	KODERMA	22.3	20.6	7.6
14	PAKUR	30.3	28.0	7.5
15	DUMKA	60.4	56.1	7.2
16	HAZARIBAGH	55.6	51.8	6.9
17	WEST SINGHBHUM	40.4	38.0	5.8
18	PALAMU	60.0	57.0	5.0
19	DEOGHAR	66.8	65.3	2.2
20	BOKARO	36.7	36.4	0.9
21	EAST SINGHBUM	26.8	26.9	-0.3
22	DHANBAD	31.2	31.5	-0.7
23	RANCHI	38.3	38.8	-1.3
24	GARHWA	101.4	104.1	-2.7

****A negative value represents an improved trend while the positive value represents a drop in the performance.**

Annexure 3

Schemes Being Done in 2024-25

Type of Work	Schemes
Aanganwadi/Other Rural Infrastructure	Construction of Anganwadi
	Poto ho playground
	Playground
Land Development	Land Levelling
	Medbandi
Micro Irrigation	Renovation of Nala
	Canal Cleaning
Drinking Water	Well Construction
Rural Sanitation	Soak Pit Construction
	Toilet
Water Conservation and Harvesting	Rain Water Harvesting Structure
	Amri Vatika Sarowar
Individual Scheme	Goat and Cow Shed
	Plantation
	Horticulture
	Didi Badi Scheme
	Dobha and Pond Construction
	Abua Awas Scheme
	PM Awas Scheme
	Trench-Cum-Bund (TCB)
Rural Connectivity	Mitti Muram Road
Other	Bakri Aashraysthal
	Bandh Nirman
	Renovation of Pond

	Favor Block Construction
--	--------------------------