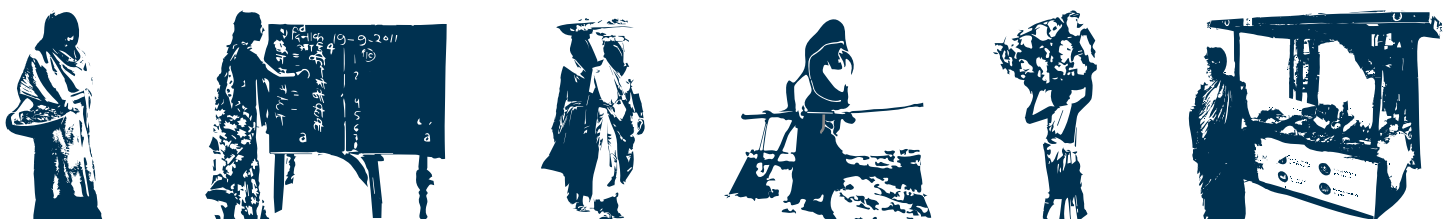
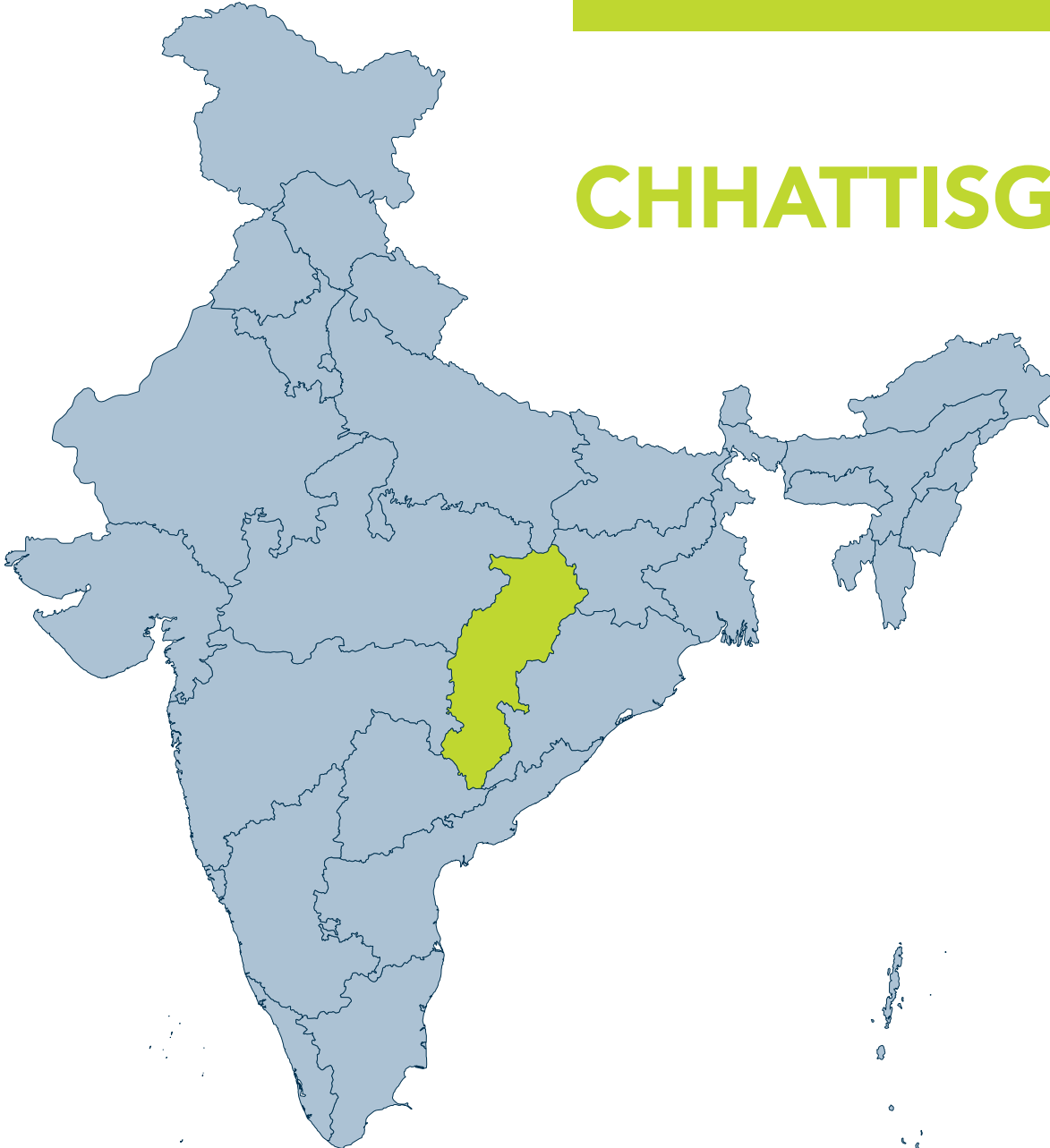


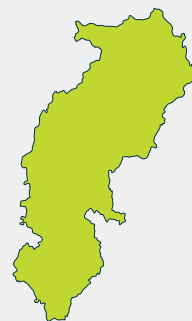
WOMEN'S WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION IN INDIA: **STATEWISE TRENDS**

CHHATTISGARH



This series of state factsheets highlight important aspects of the status of women's employment in the states. The factsheets use secondary data provided by the National Sample Surveys' Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. The factsheets also draw on data from the employment – unemployment surveys (EUS) conducted by the same agency in previous years as well as data from other sources to support state specific analysis.

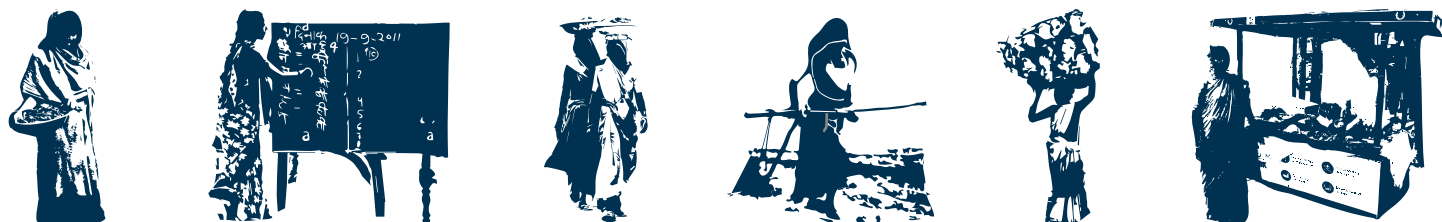
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Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh, located in east-central India, is the ninth largest state of the country¹. About three-fourths of its population resides in rural areas, of which at least one-third belongs to the scheduled castes or tribes². In terms of per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Chhattisgarh ranks as one of the 10 bottommost states of the country, with its poorest districts being Bastar, Narayanpur, and Dakshin Bastar Dantewada. However, the state has shown considerable improvement, with the reduction of its multi-dimensional poverty from 0.355 in 2005-06 to 0.153 in 2015-16³.

In this 'rice bowl of India,' known so far for being the biggest exporter of non-basmati rice, 70 per cent of the employed population is dependent on agriculture⁴. With a majority of women also employed in agriculture, the Female Work Participation Rate (FWPR) of the state has always remained significantly better than the national trend. The state's FWPR was about 17 percentage points higher than the national average in 2020-21⁵.



¹ Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board. https://enviscecb.org/our_state.htm

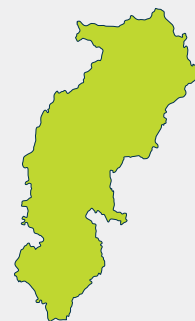
² Census 2011

³ OPHI (2020). *Multidimensional Poverty in Chhattisgarh: A Measure for Action*. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford. https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Chhattisgarh_2020_online_4vs.pdf

⁴ Directorate Agriculture, Chhattisgarh. Agriculture Development and Farmer Welfare and Bio-Technology Department.

⁵ Author's estimates using unit level data from PLFS 2020-21.

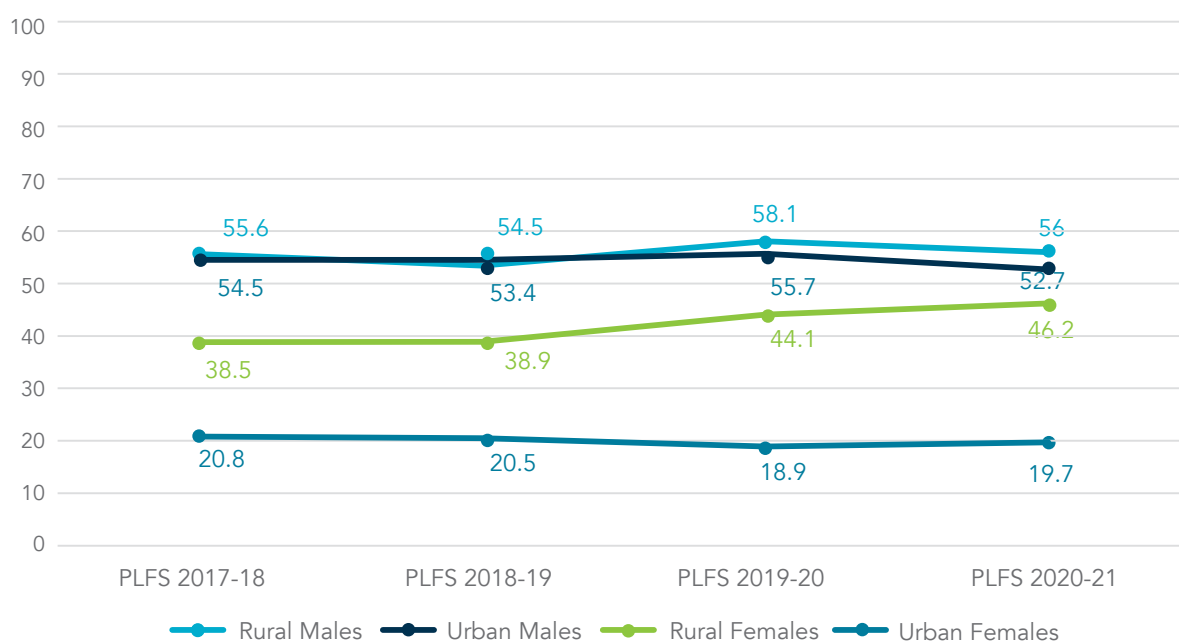
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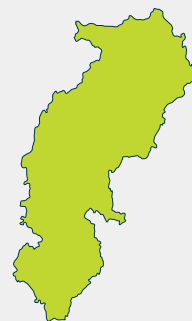
A. Trends in Female Work Participation Rates

- The Work Participation Rate (WPR) for both men and women across rural and urban regions experienced a slight dip during the pandemic years of 2019-20. However, the FWPR in rural areas significantly rose from 38.9 per cent in 2018-19 to 46.2 per cent in 2020-21, which is also 24.6 percentage points higher than the national trend. This tremendous rise of rural women is further investigated in the factsheet.
- This has also added to the existing rural-urban FWPR gap, where the urban FWPR is about 26.5 percentage points lower than the rural FWPR in 2020-21.
- The male-female differences in the WPR continue to remain, which are alarmingly higher for urban females.

Figure 1: Trends in WPR in Chhattisgarh (all age groups)



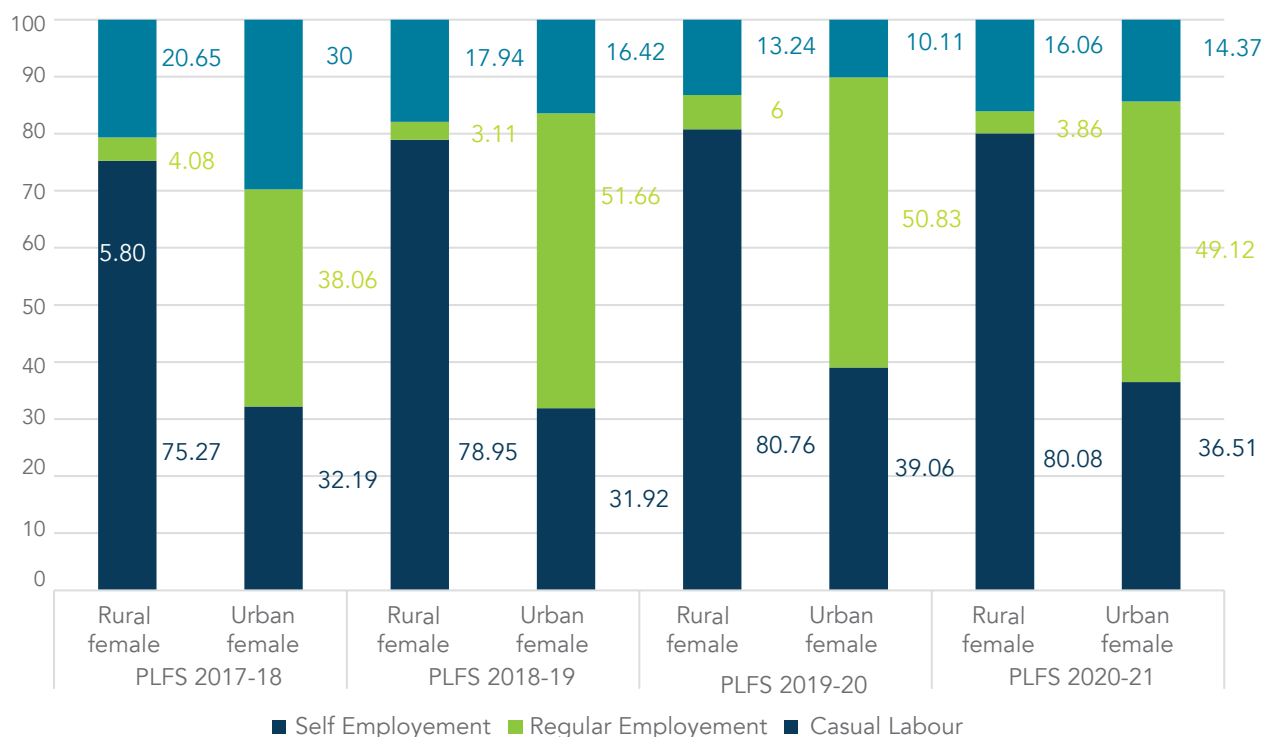
Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18, PLFS 2018-19, PLFS 2019-20, and PLFS 2020-21, National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India (GoI). The WPR figures are calculated for males and females of all age groups.



B. Distribution of Women Workers by Status of Employment

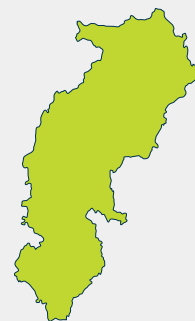
- An inordinate 80.1 per cent rural women were self-employed as per their usual status in Chhattisgarh in 2020-21! This proportion of self-employed rural women has remained consistently high throughout the reference years.
- Simultaneously, rural women employed in casual wage work reduced from 20.65 per cent in 2017-18 to 16.1 per cent in 2020-21. A mere 3.9 per cent of rural women were employed in regular wage employment in 2020-21.
- Almost half of the working urban women were employed in regular wage work in 2020-21. Over the reference period, the growing curve of self-employed women was disrupted and reduced to 36.5 per cent in the pandemic years of 2020-21 from the higher 39.1 per cent in 2019-20. The proportion of urban women employed in casual labour, after a steep decline from 30 per cent in 2017-18 to 10.1 per cent in 2019-20, rose to 14.4 per cent in 2020-21.

Figure 2: Distribution of Women Workers by Status of Employment in Chhattisgarh



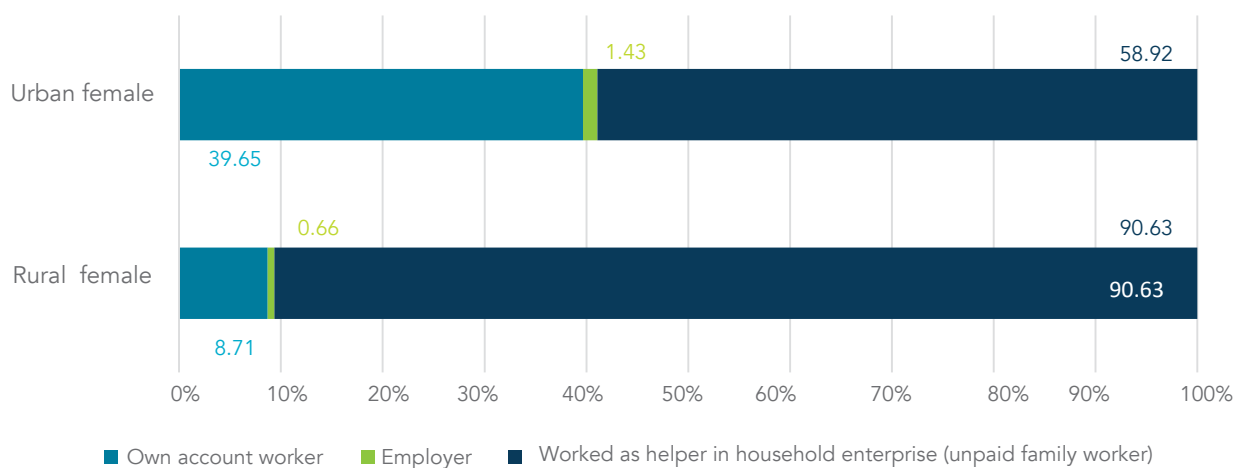
Source: Author's Estimates Using Unit Level Data from PLFS 2017-18, PLFS 2018-19, PLFS 2019-20 and PLFS 2020-21.

CHHATTISGARH

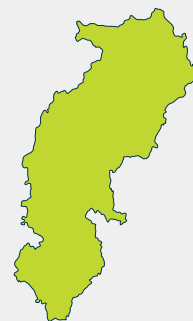


- On further investigation, we find 91 per cent self-employed rural women are employed as unpaid family workers in Chhattisgarh. Therefore, despite the increase of rural women's share in the labour force participation, their labour has been limited to unpaid work within households. In urban areas, almost 40 per cent of self-employed women are their own account workers, while 59 per cent work as helpers in household enterprises.

Figure 3: Distribution of Self-employed Women Workers



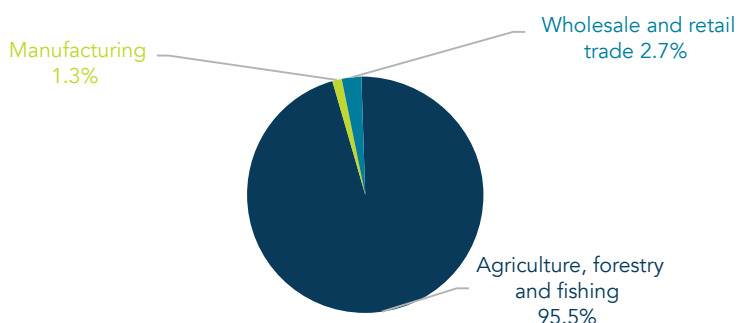
Source: Author's calculations based on unit level data from PLFS 2020-21.



C. Distribution of Self-employed Women Workers across Industry Groups⁶

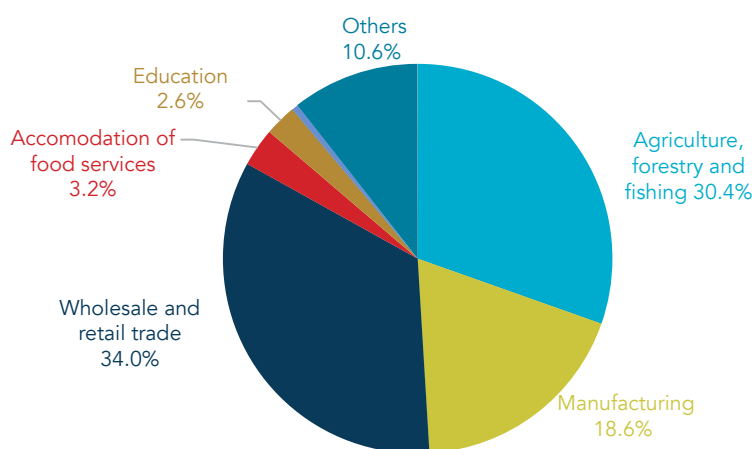
- 96 per cent of rural women are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities, with the remaining few working in wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing. This high participation of women in the agriculture sector is in alignment with the national trends and may also explain rural women's soaring participation as self-employed unpaid family workers. These peculiar changes in the rural labour force participation of women indicates distress-driven employment in the context of the COVID-19 crisis⁷.

Figure 4a: Self-employed Rural Women across Industry Groups



- With a significant number of urban women reporting as their own account workers, 34 per cent women are employed in wholesale and retail trade signifying a high share of women in petty retailing, 30 per cent are employed in agriculture and allied services, and 19 per cent women are employed by manufacturing work.

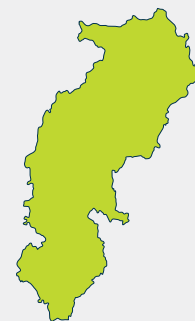
Figure 4b: Self-employed urban Women across Industry Groups



Source: Author's Calculations based On Unit Level Data from PLFS 2020-21.

⁶ 'Others' category includes the following sectors: information and communication, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, public administration and defence; compulsory social security, arts, entertainment and recreation and other service activities.

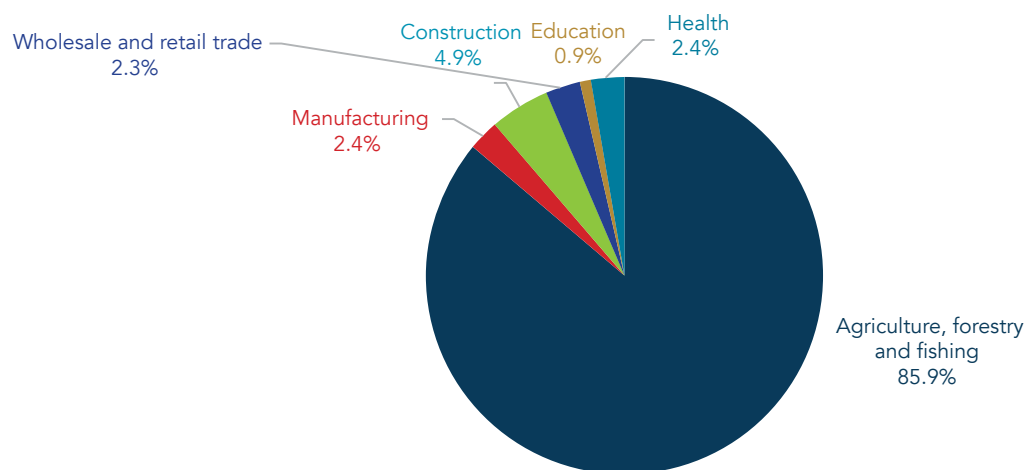
⁷ Kapoor and Negi (2021). Impact of pandemic on female labour force participation. Economic Times. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/view-impact-of-pandemic-on-female-labour-force-participation/articleshow/86060988.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst



D. Distribution of Women Workers by Broad Industry Divisions⁸

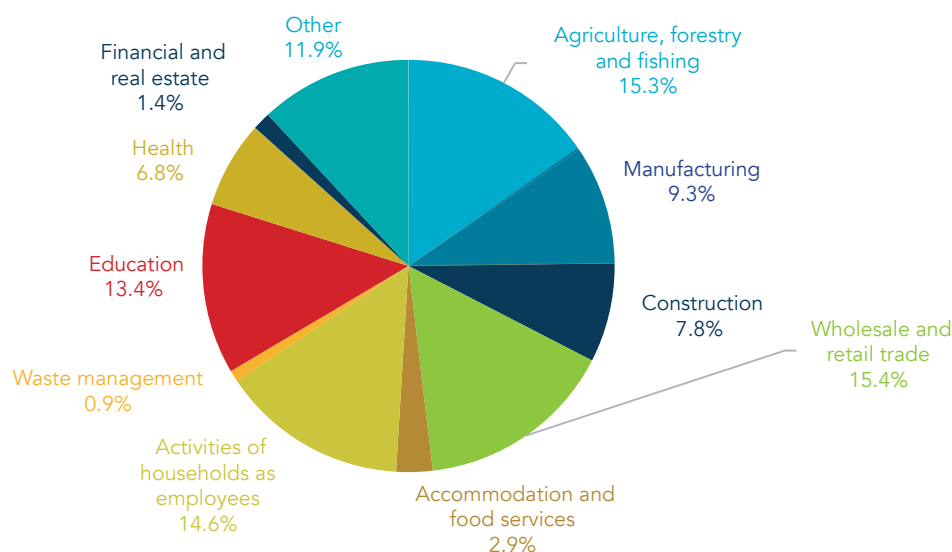
- A majority of 86 per cent employed women in rural Chhattisgarh work in agriculture and allied activities, with the remaining percentage work in manufacturing (3 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (2 per cent), and construction (5 per cent).

Figure 5a: Industry-wise distribution of Rural Women Workers



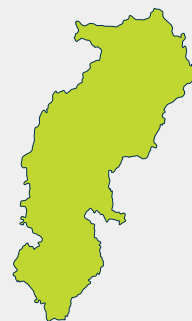
- Urban women in Chhattisgarh are distributed across female dominant sectors. About 15 per cent women are employed in agricultural activities, wholesale and retail trade and households activities, respectively. This employment of urban women in household activities is 5 percentage points higher than the national average.

Figure 5b: Industry-wise distribution of Urban Women Workers



Source: Author's Calculations based On Unit Level Data from PLFS 2020-21.

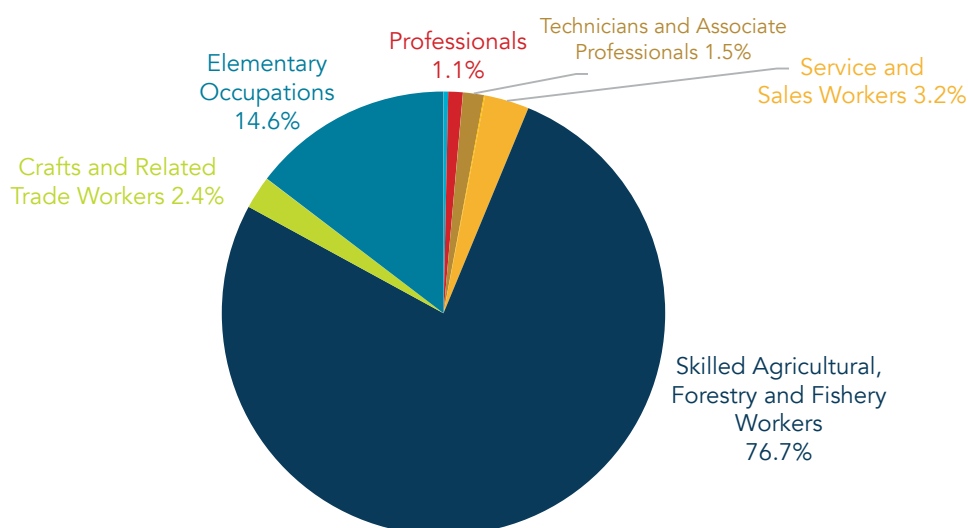
⁸ 'Others' category includes the following sectors: information and communication, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, public administration and defence; compulsory social security, arts, entertainment and recreation and other service activities.



E. Distribution of Women Workers by Occupation Types

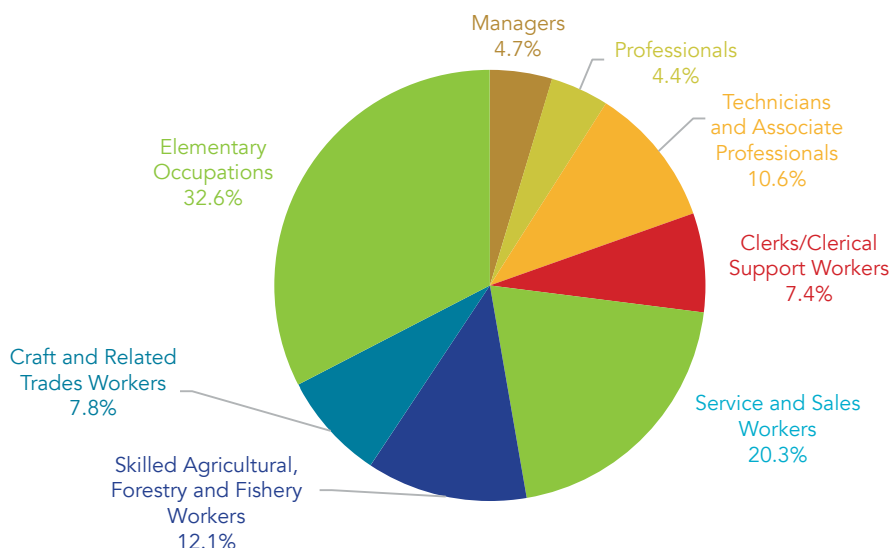
- 77 per cent of rural women hold skilled positions of agricultural workers and 15 per cent hold other elementary occupations such as casual labour, etc.
- Less than 1 per cent of rural women work as managers, while only a minute proportion serve as service or sales workers, professionals and technicians.

Figure 6a: Occupation types of Rural Women

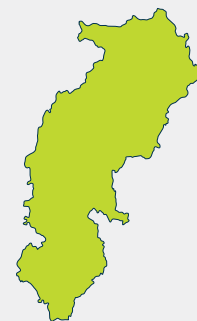


- One in three women in urban Chhattisgarh is employed in elementary occupations, and about 20 per cent work as service and sales workers. Only about 5 per cent women work as managers, while 11 per cent are employed as technicians.

Figure 6b: Occupation types of Urban Women



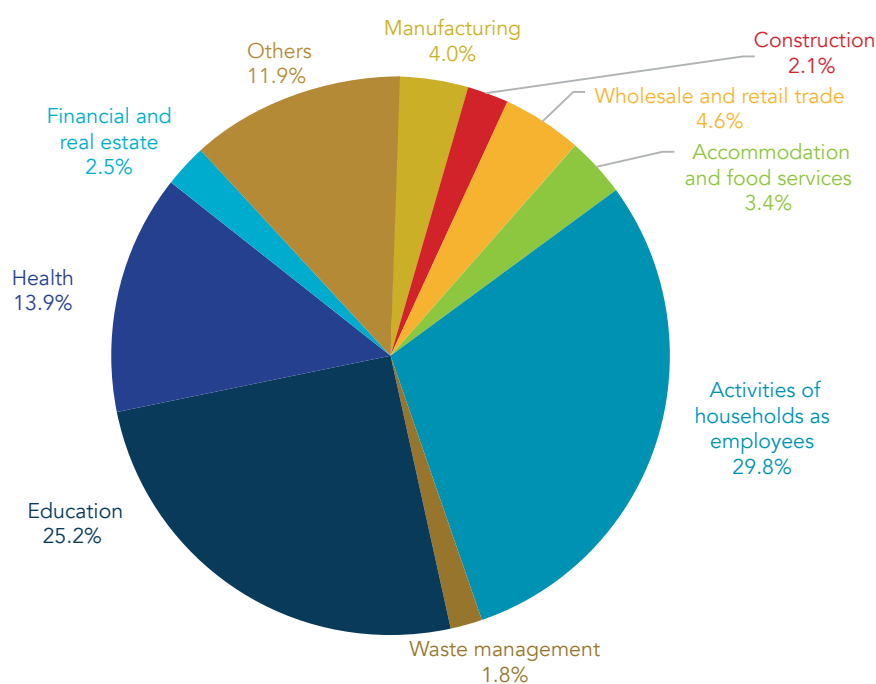
Source: Author's calculations based on Unit Level Data from PLFS 2020-21



F. Distribution of Regular Wage Women Workers by Broad Industry Types⁹

- About half of urban women in Chhattisgarh work in regular employment, whereas a starkly elevated 30 per cent of women are employed in household activities, which is about 12 percentage points higher than the national figures. The remaining 25 per cent are in education, 14 per cent in health services and 11 per cent in other categories such as information and communication activities, administrative and support service activities, public administration, etc.

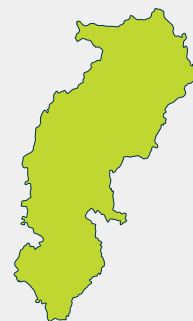
Figure 7: Industry-wise distribution of regular Wage Urban Women



Source: Author's calculations based on Unit Level Data from PLFS 2020-21

⁹ 'Others' category includes the following sectors: information and communication, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, public administration and defence; compulsory social security, arts, entertainment and recreation and other service activities.

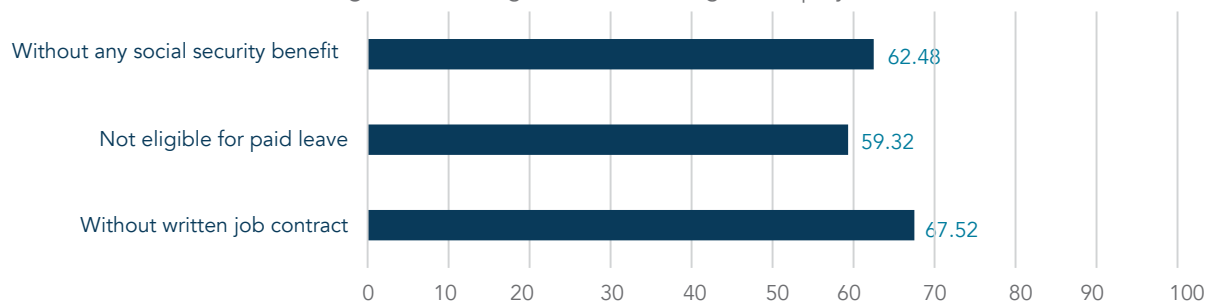
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G. Working Conditions in Regular Employment

- Despite a rising proportion of urban women working in regular employment, a majority face adverse working conditions.
- More than 60 per cent of urban women are working without any social security benefits and a written job contract, possibly due to the high engagement of urban women in domestic work.

Figure 8: Working Conditions in Regular Employment

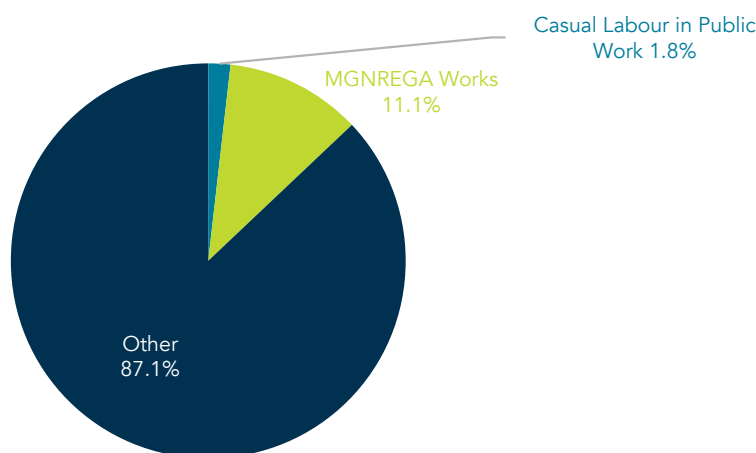


Source: PLFS 2020-21

H. Women Workers in Casual Employment

- 11.1 per cent of rural women are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)¹⁰ workers, a percentage that is much higher than in other states. The remaining majority (87.1 per cent) is engaged in non-public casual works, while only 1.8 per cent women are working as casual employees in public works.

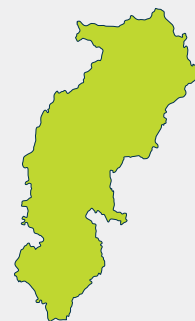
Figure 9: Rural Women Workers in Casual Employment



Source: Author's Calculations based on Unit Level Data from PLFS 2020-21

¹⁰ MGNREGA: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005,

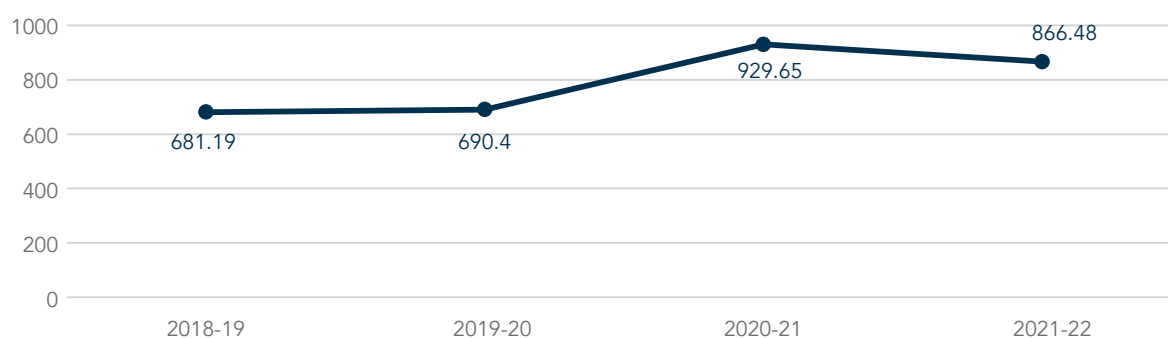
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I. Women workers in MGNREGA

- The number of women person-days under MGNREGA has been significantly higher in Chhattisgarh than in other Indian states. In 2021-22, women person-days amounted to 866.48 lakh.
- Currently, 48.45 lakh women from rural Chhattisgarh are registered under MGNREGA, of which 74.8 per cent are active members¹¹. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, this participation in MGNREGA provided jobs to over 50 per cent of rural women of the state¹².

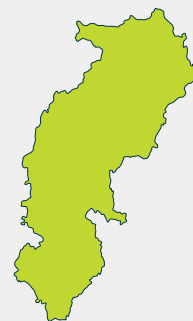
Figure 10: Women Person-days under MGNREGA (in lakhs)



¹¹ Author's calculation using the state's category wise households/workers (MGNREGA Dashboard).

¹² Ejaz Kaiser (2020). The New Indian Express. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2020/jul/29/amid-covid-crisis-over-50-per-cent-women-access-jobs-under-mgnrega-in-chhattisgarh-2176290.html>

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CONCLUSION

The majority of the primarily rural population of Chhattisgarh is involved in agriculture and allied services. There has been a significant rise in the labour force participation rate of rural women in the state; they are significantly involved in self-employment and work mainly as unpaid family enterprise workers in the agriculture sector. This portrays a distress-induced employment of these women due to the COVID-19 pandemic especially within the agriculture sector where the involvement of these women has been limited to subsistence farm activities. In addition, casual employment of rural women also increased as they engaged in MGNREGA or other non-public work.

The remaining urban population of women is divided amongst female dominated sectors in both regular wage income and self-employment. The proportion of urban women employed in domestic work is high, and thereby their working conditions in such urban regular wage work are dismal. Further, a majority of urban self-employed women work as unpaid family workers in agriculture, wholesale trade and manufacturing.

The factsheet is prepared by Prakriti Sharma and reviewed by Sona Mitra and Bidisha Mondal, IWWAGE – Lead at KREA University. Copyright @2022

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