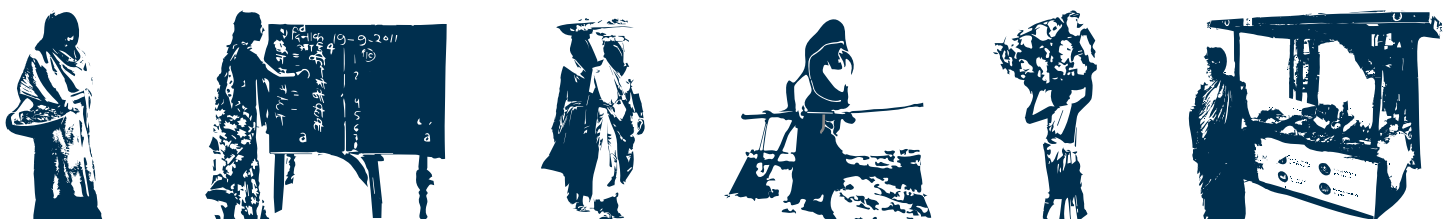


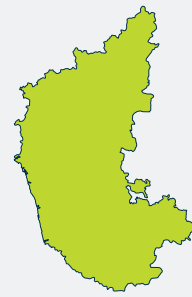
WOMEN'S WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION IN INDIA: **STATEWISE TRENDS**

KARNATAKA



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.

KARNATAKA



Karnataka

The state of Karnataka, situated in south-western India, was formed in 1956. It is the sixth largest state in India and has the eighth largest population among all states. It covers an area of 191,791 square kilometres and has a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of INR18.85 trillion. Karnataka ranks 19th in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) among all Indian states. The etymology of the state is derived from the black soil found in certain parts of Karnataka, which is used for cotton cultivation. More than half the working population of Karnataka is engaged in agriculture and allied activities; however, it is the services sector that contributes the most (about 66 per cent) to its GSDP.¹ Karnataka has emerged as the leading Information Technology (IT) hub in the whole country with many software firms being headquartered in the state capital, Bengaluru.

Karnataka one of the highest rate of female labour force participation rates (LFPR) in India and has a female Work Participation Rate (WPR) of 31.5 per cent as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2021-22. About 41 per cent of Karnataka's workforce is dependent on agriculture, while 21.5 per cent relies on the industrial sector.² Women workers are concentrated primarily in agriculture in rural areas and in the manufacturing and services sectors in urban areas.



¹Industrial sector remains sluggish for five years [<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/industrial-sector-remains-sluggish-for-five-years/article65190973.ece>]

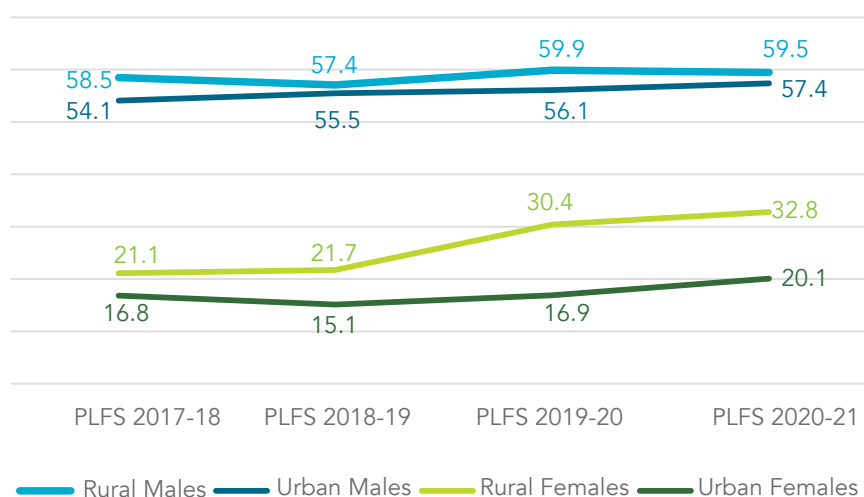
²Ibid.



A. Trends in Work Participation Rate in Karnataka

- WPRs in Karnataka have been the highest for rural males and lowest for urban females;
- As per PLFS 2020-21, the WPR for rural women stood at nearly 33 per cent while that of urban women was about 20 per cent; and
- The divergence between rural and urban female WPRs have increased over the years as has been the case for most of the states and the whole of India.

Figure 1: Trends in Work Participation Rate in Karnataka

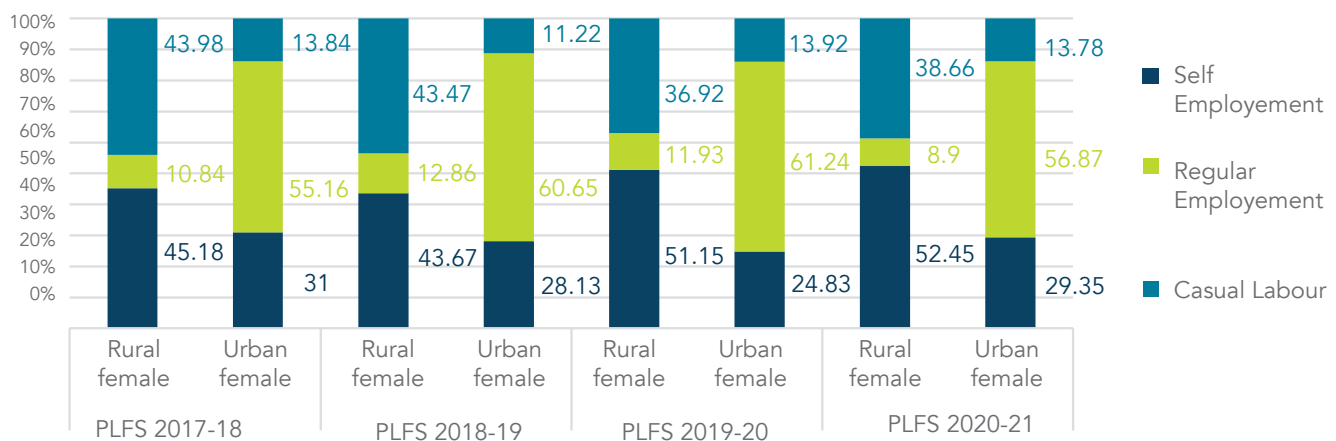




B. Distribution of Women Workers by Status of Employment

- Self-employment and casual labour are the most common forms of employment among rural women employed as per usual status in Karnataka; for the urban employed women, regular salaried jobs are the most common.
- Regular employment among rural women in Karnataka had peaked at 13 per cent in 2018-19 and declined to its lowest in 2020-21 at 8.9 per cent while, among urban women, it peaked above 61 per cent in 2019-20 and then declined to 57 per cent in 2020-21 due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A greater proportion of employed women are working as casual labour in rural Karnataka compared to in the urban areas. In 2020-21, the proportion of women working as casual labour was 39 per cent in rural areas and 14 per cent in urban areas in Karnataka.
- Self-employment rates in rural Karnataka have increased over the years and stood at 53 per cent as of 2020-21 while, in urban areas, self-employment has stood at about 14 per cent over the last two years.

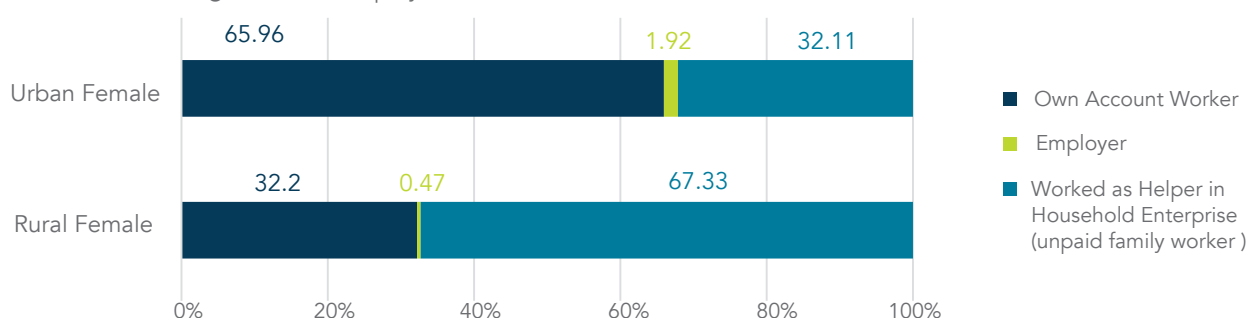
Figure 2: Women Employed as per Usual Status in Karnataka



C. Women Workers in Self Employment

- Most of the self-employed women in urban Karnataka (66 per cent) are working as own account workers while, in rural areas, around 67 per cent of self-employed females are working as unpaid workers in household enterprises.
- Around 2 per cent urban women and 0.5 per cent rural women, among those who are self-employed, were working as employers in 2020-21. However, despite its low proportion, the percentage of self-employed women working as employers in Karnataka is higher than in many other Indian states.
- About 32 per cent self-employed women, each in urban and rural Karnataka, were working as unpaid family workers and own account workers, respectively, in 2020-21.

Figure 3: Self-employed Women in Karnataka in 2020-21





D. Distribution of Self-Employed Women Workers across Industry Groups

- 78 per cent of the self-employed women in rural Karnataka were engaged as paid or unpaid workers in agriculture and allied activities followed by 15 per cent employed in the manufacturing sector.
- 58 per cent of the self-employed women in urban Karnataka were working in the manufacturing sector while about 16 per cent were engaged in wholesale and retail trade and related activities, 11 per cent were working in the agricultural sector followed by 5 per cent in hospitality industries (accommodation and food services) and 7 per cent were working as high skilled, mid skilled or low skilled workers in other service sector industries.
- Only 2 per cent of self-employed women in urban areas were working as professionals. About 2 per cent and 1 per cent of these women were engaged in the education and health sector, respectively.

Figure 4a: Industrial distribution among Self-employed Rural Women in Karnataka in 2020-21

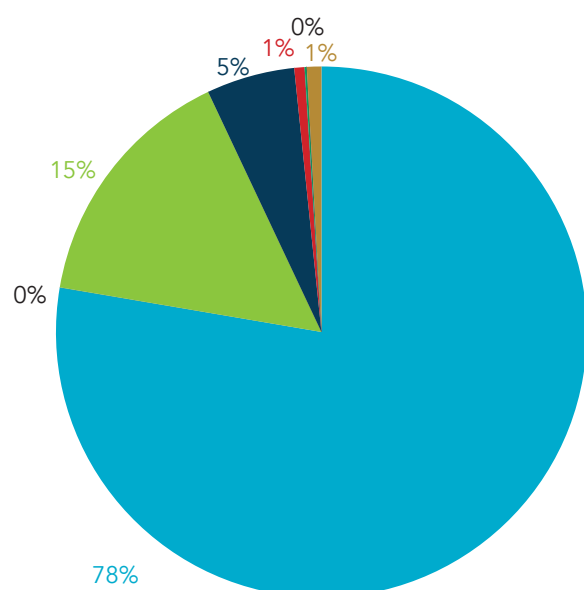
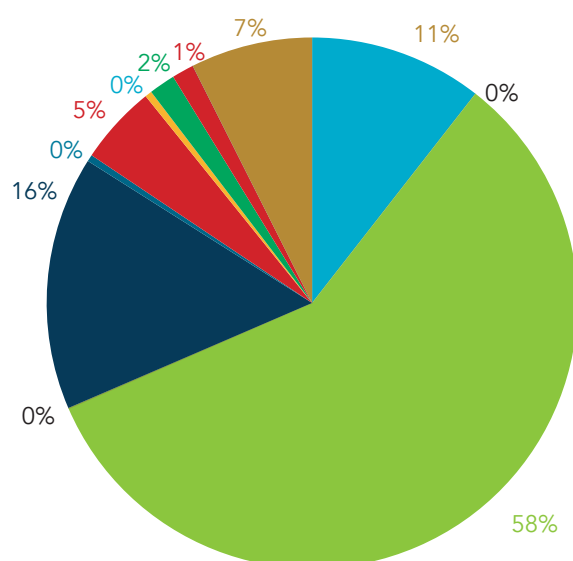


Figure 4b: Industrial Distribution among Self-Employed Urban Women in Karnataka in 2020-21



- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Mining and quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Financial and Real Estate Activities
- Education
- Health
- Activities of households as employers
- Others



E. Distribution of Own Account Women Workers by Industry Group

- The majority of the own account employed women was employed in the manufacturing sector as per PLFS 2020-21 with 46 per cent working in the manufacturing sector in 2020-21 in rural areas and 72 per cent in the urban areas.
- 39 per cent of own account employed women in rural Karnataka were working in agriculture, forestry and fishing while around 14 per cent women each in rural and urban areas were working in wholesale and retail trade-related activities.
- About 5 per cent of women in urban Karnataka were engaged in the services sector in various capacities.

Figure 5a: Industrial distribution of Own Account Employed Rural Female Workers in Karnataka in 2020-21

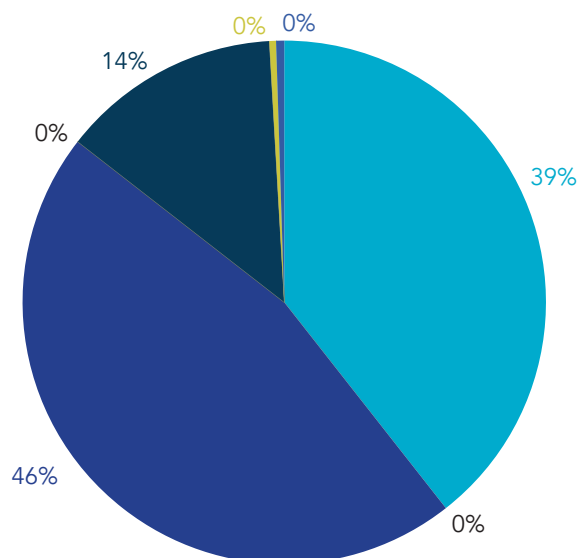
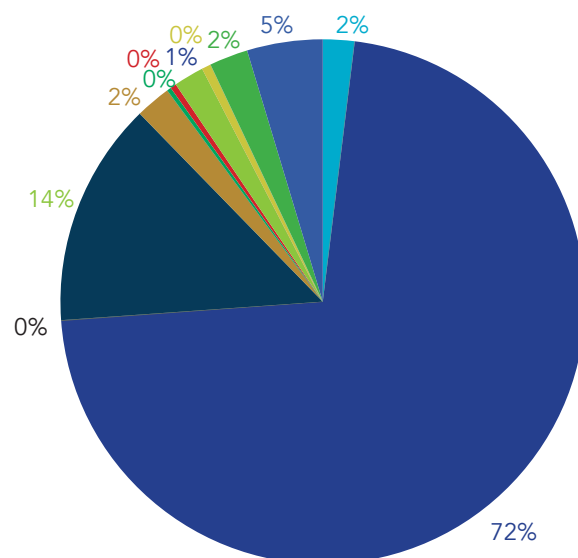


Figure 5a: Industrial distribution of Own Account Employed Urban Female Workers in Karnataka in 2020-21



- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Mining and quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Information and communication
- Financial and insurance activities
- Real Estate Activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities
- Administrative and support service activities
- Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- Education
- Human health and social work activities
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Other service activities
- Activities of households as employers

KARNATAKA



- Since most of the rural and urban own account employed women are engaged in manufacturing activities, we have further explored where they are concentrated in the manufacturing sector.
- The own account employed female workers in both rural and urban Karnataka are primarily concentrated in the manufacturing of tobacco products and apparel.
- In the urban areas, around 5 per cent were also engaged in the production of food products and around 9 per cent were working in other manufacturing activities such as the production of sports equipments, musical instruments, artificial jewellery, soft toys, bags and shoes made of non-leather products, and so on.

Figure 5c: Distribution of Rural Own Account Female Workers in manufacturing in Karnataka in 2020-21

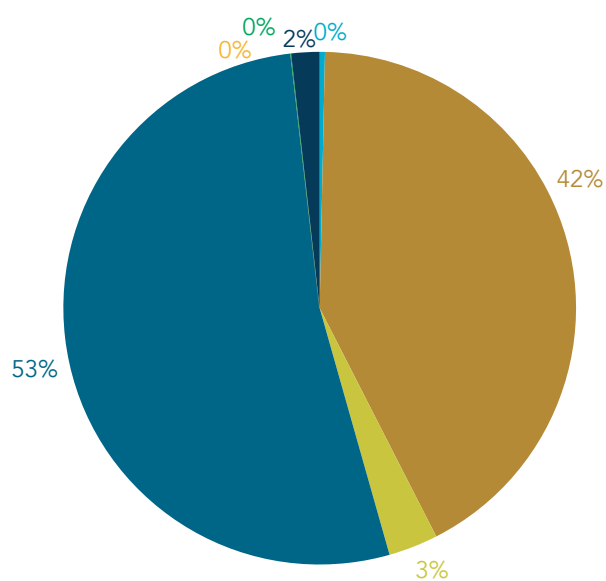
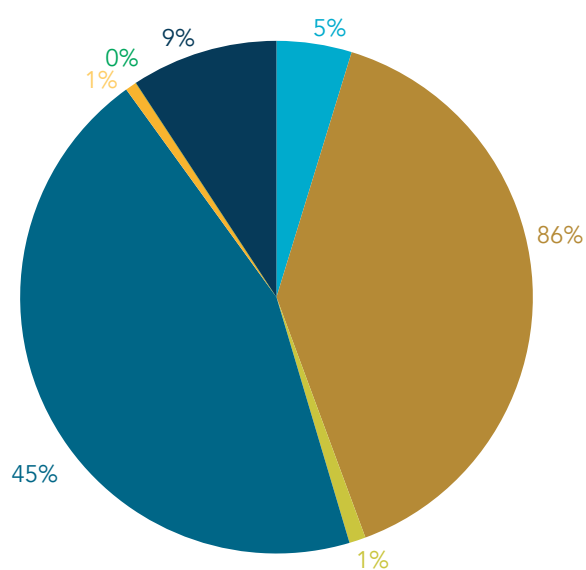


Figure 5d: Distribution of Urban Own Account Female Workers in manufacturing in Karnataka in 2020-21



Food products

Tobacco products

Textiles

Wearing apparel

Chemicals and chemical products

Rubber and plastics products

Others



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

- Among rural women with regular salaried employment in 2020-21, 48 per cent were working in the education sector, followed by about 12 per cent in the health sector and other service-related activities. About 9 per cent of rural women were working in the manufacturing industries, 10 per cent in trade-related activities and about 7 per cent were providing services in the finance and real estate sectors.
- Urban women with regular employment were concentrated in the services sector in various capacities (27 per cent), followed by 22 per cent in manufacturing, 17 per cent in education and 10 per cent each in the health sector and as domestic helpers in households. The diversity of activities of urban women in Karnataka is visible in the distribution of regular employment of women.
- Construction, mining, electricity, water supply and waste management as well as transportation and storage were the sectors with low percentages of regular waged female workers.

Figure 6a: Industrial distribution of rural Regular Salaried Women Workers in Karnataka in 2020-21

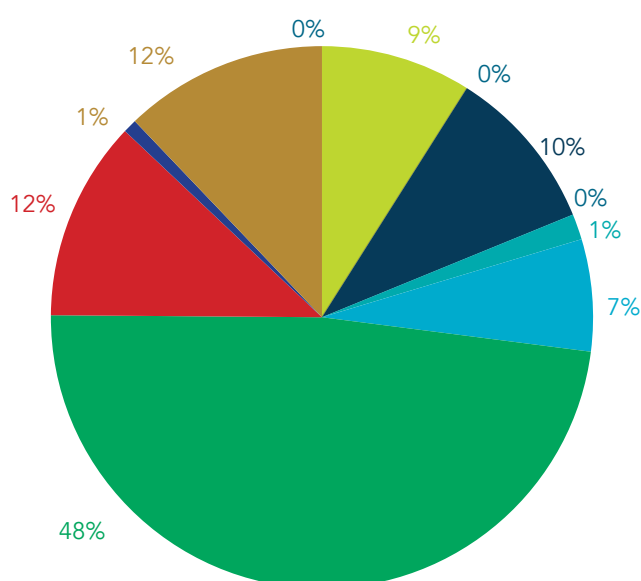
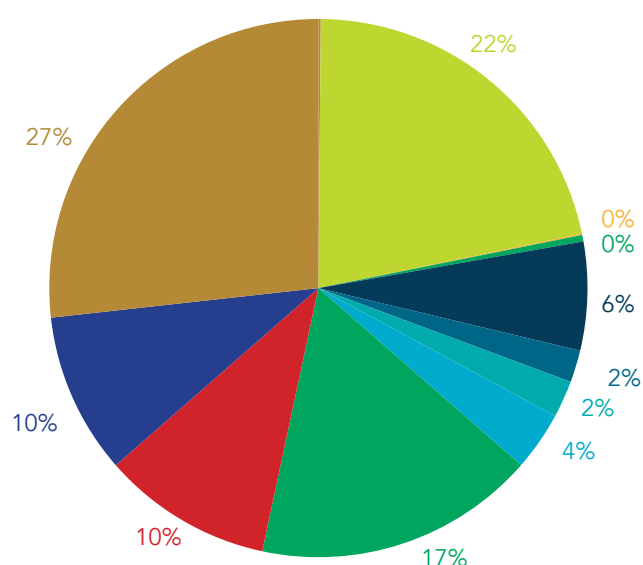


Figure 6b: Industrial distribution of Urban Regular Salaried Women Workers in Karnataka in 2020-21



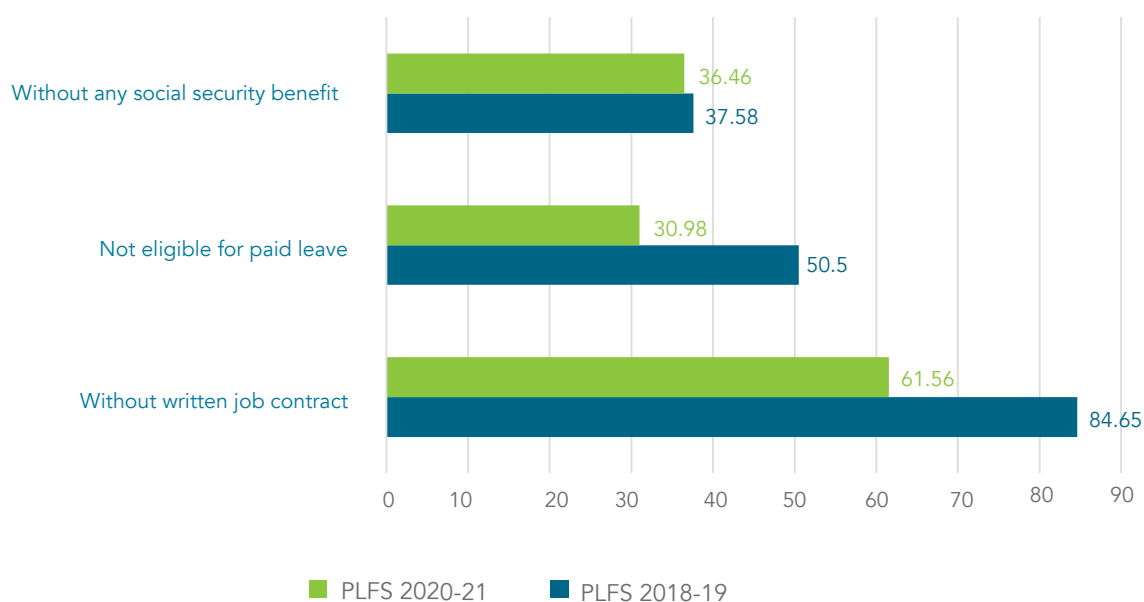
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Mining and quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Financial and Real Estate Activities
- Education
- Health



G. Working Conditions in Regular Employment

- More than 60 per cent of urban women with regular salaried employment were working without a written job contract as per PLFS 2020-21, which is a significant decline from the 2018-19 figure of 85 per cent.
- In 2020-21, 37 per cent of urban women were not eligible for any social security benefits, while 31 per cent were ineligible for paid leave. In both these categories, percentages had declined from 38 per cent and 51 per cent, respectively, in 2018-19.
- Working conditions for urban regular salaried women are not great in Karnataka, as has been the case for other states as well.

Figure 7: Working conditions for Urban Females in Regular Employment





H. Distribution of Women Workers by Broad Industry Divisions

- The majority of rural women (77 per cent), employed as per usual status, were concentrated in the agricultural sector while most of the urban women (32 per cent) were working in the manufacturing sector.
- Around 10 per cent and 4 per cent of the employed rural women were engaged in manufacturing and education in 2020-21.
- Urban women were mostly engaged in retail trade and related activities (9 per cent), education (10 per cent), health (7 per cent) and as domestic helpers in households (6 per cent), besides manufacturing.
- Around 18 per cent of employed urban women were working in the services sector in various capacities.

Figure 8a: Industrial distribution of Rural Women Employed as per Usual Status in Karnataka in 2020-21

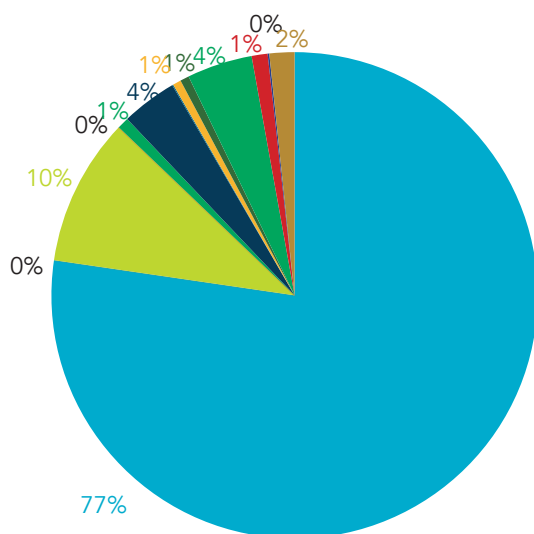
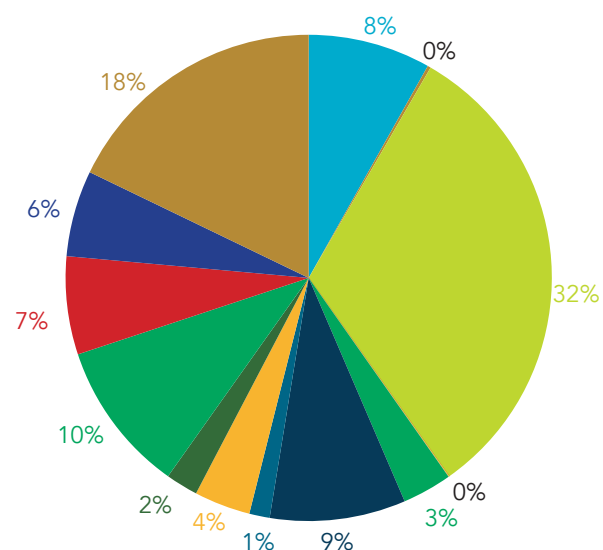


Figure 8b: Industrial distribution of Urban Women Employed as per Usual Status in Karnataka in 2020-21



- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Mining and quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Financial and Real Estate Activities
- Education
- Health



I. Distribution of Women Workers by Occupation Types

- In 2020-21, 40 per cent rural women in Karnataka were employed as skilled agricultural workers, followed by 38 per cent in elementary occupations. About 11 per cent rural employed women were working as legislators, senior officials and managers, around 3 per cent as technicians and associate professionals, while 1.5 per cent were working as professionals in high-skill jobs.
- The majority of the urban women in Karnataka were working as legislators, senior officials and managers (24 per cent) while around 16 per cent were working as professionals. Urban women engaged in elementary occupations accounted for 18 per cent while 11 per cent were involved in crafts and related trades, 10 per cent each were working in market sales and as technicians, and 6 per cent women in urban Karnataka occupied clerical positions.
- Less than 1 per cent women in rural areas and 3 per cent in urban areas were working in plants and machinery operations and assembling, which emerges as the sector with the lowest representation of female workers.

Figure 9a: Occupational distribution of Rural Women in Karnataka in 2020-21

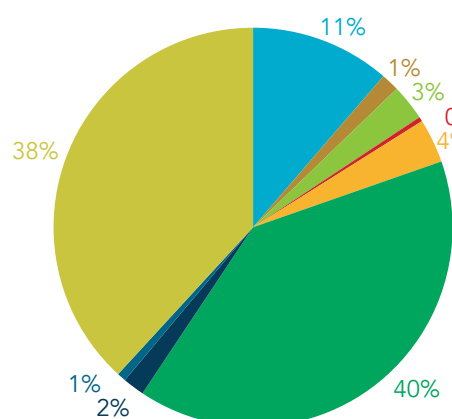
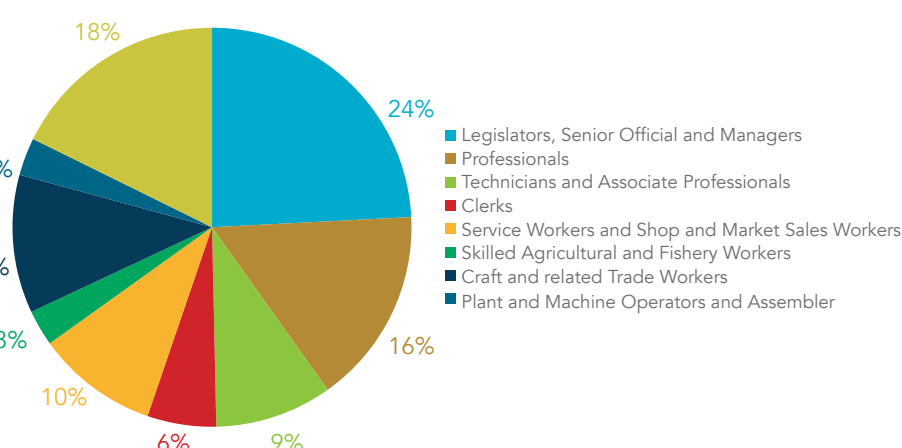


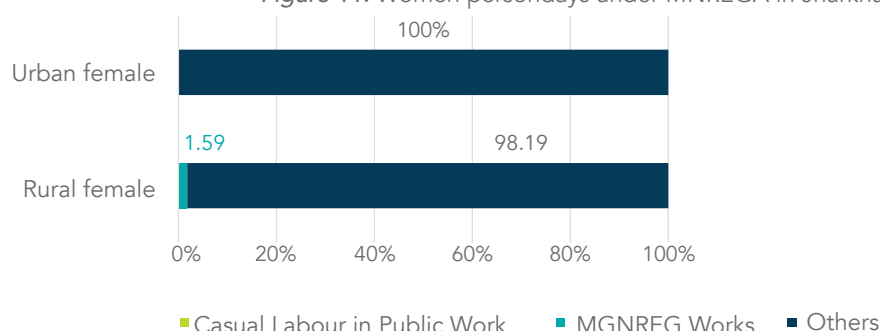
Figure 9b: Occupational distribution of Urban Women in Karnataka in 2020-21



J. Women Workers in Casual Employment

- In 2020-21, almost the entire population of urban women working as casual labour were engaged in non-public works. However, in rural areas, about 2 per cent of the female casual labourers were employed as Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers while the remaining 98 per cent were engaged in non-public works.
- The data represented in Figure 10 indicates the lack of availability of public work for casual labour in both rural and urban areas of Karnataka.

Figure 11: Women persondays under MNREGA in Jharkhand (in lakhs)

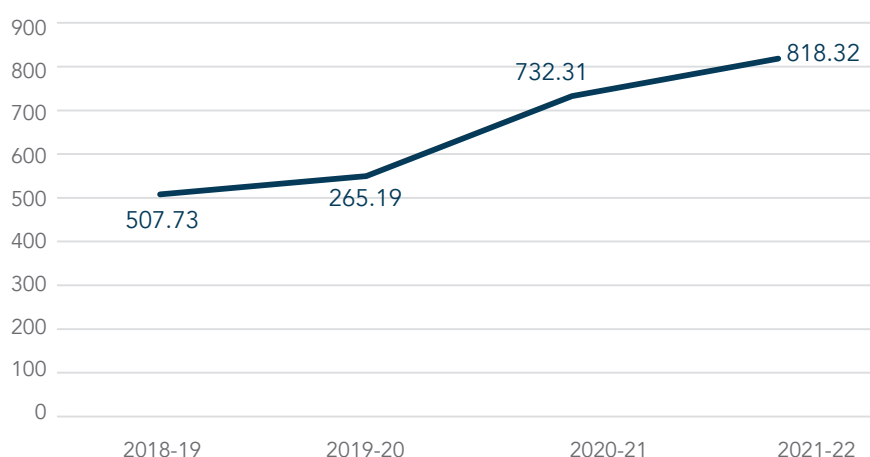




K. Women Workers in MGNREGS Jobs

- The number of women persondays under MGNREGS has increased over the past few years.
- In 2021-22, women persondays under MGNREGS in Karnataka stood at 818.32 lakhs, which forms about 50 per cent of the total persondays generated.

Figure 11: Women persondays under MNREGA in Jharkhand (in lakhs)



CONCLUSION

The WPR for urban and rural women has gradually improved in Karnataka since 2018-19; however, it continues to be quite low, especially for urban women. The majority of the rural women who are employed according to the usual status in Karnataka is self-employed, while some are working as casual labour. The proportion of rural women with regular salaried work is quite low. Rural women are primarily concentrated in the agricultural sector while urban women are working in manufacturing. Women in regular employment are working as professionals and health or education sector workers. The proportion of women with regular wage work in agriculture is negligible. Most own account employed women in both rural and urban Karnataka are engaged in manufacturing activities, especially in the production of tobacco products and apparel. The number and proportion of women persondays under MGNREGS has increased gradually over the years; however, the proportion of rural women with MGNREGS work, among those working as casual labour, is significantly low. While working conditions for urban women in regular employment are not great in Karnataka, it is still better than in many other states where the majority of women have none of the three facilities of regular employment: written job contract, paid leave and social security benefits.

The factsheet is prepared by Trisha Chandra and reviewed by Sona Mitra and Bidisha Mondal, IWWAGE – Lead at KREA University. Copyright @ 2023

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