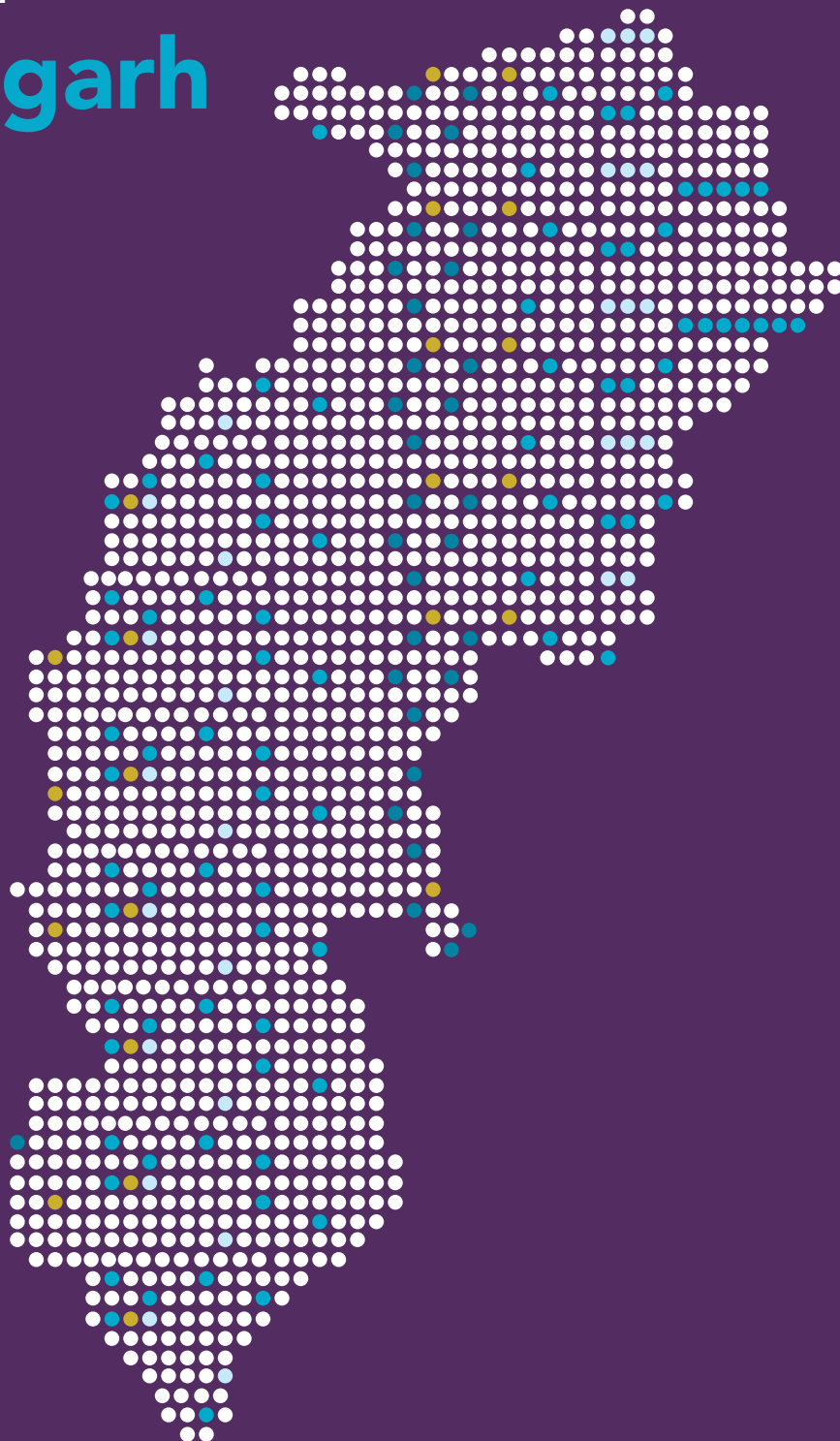


TREND IN FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN

Chhattisgarh



This series of state fact sheets highlight important aspects of the status of women's employment in Chhattisgarh. The factsheets use secondary data provided by the National Sample Surveys' Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2017-18 to 2023-24





CHHATTISGARH



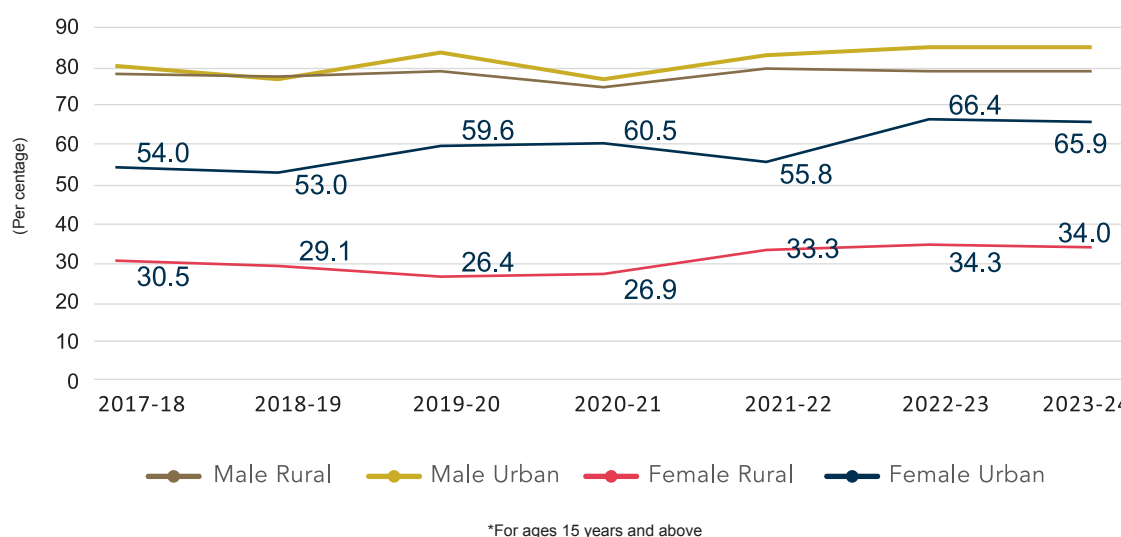
Introduction

Chhattisgarh exhibits a significantly higher Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) compared to the national average, with 60 per cent versus 42 per cent for all of India in 2023-24. This trend of increasing female participation, particularly in rural areas where the number of female workers has been rising relative to male workers, has been evident since before 2016, indicating a growing involvement of women in agricultural activities. Notably, the labour market participation of tribal women is considerably higher than that of their non-tribal counterparts. However, a closer look reveals that over 79 per cent of tribal women are engaged in self-employment, with a striking 91 per cent of these being unpaid family workers (PLFS 2023-24). To address this high rate of unpaid family work, existing schemes like the Mahila Kosh and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), which aim to foster women's self-reliance and financial empowerment through self-help groups, have been implemented¹. However, this situation necessitates a deeper examination of the overall dynamics of the labour market in Chhattisgarh and the specific conditions and opportunities available to women in general.

Trends in Female Labour Force Participation Rates

- Chhattisgarh is among the states whose FLFPR is significantly higher than that of the national average FLFPR.
- The rural FLFPR began increasing in 2018-19; it accelerated significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic year (2021-22), rising from 55.8 per cent to 66 per cent in 2023-24.
- In urban areas, FLFPR remained more or less stagnant, with a marginal increase, from 30.5 per cent in 2017-18 to 34 per cent in 2023-24.
- Slightly during the same period, from 74.9 per cent to 73.9 per cent.

Figure 1: Trend in LFPR from PLFS 2017-18 to 2023-24



Distribution of Women Workers by Status of Employment

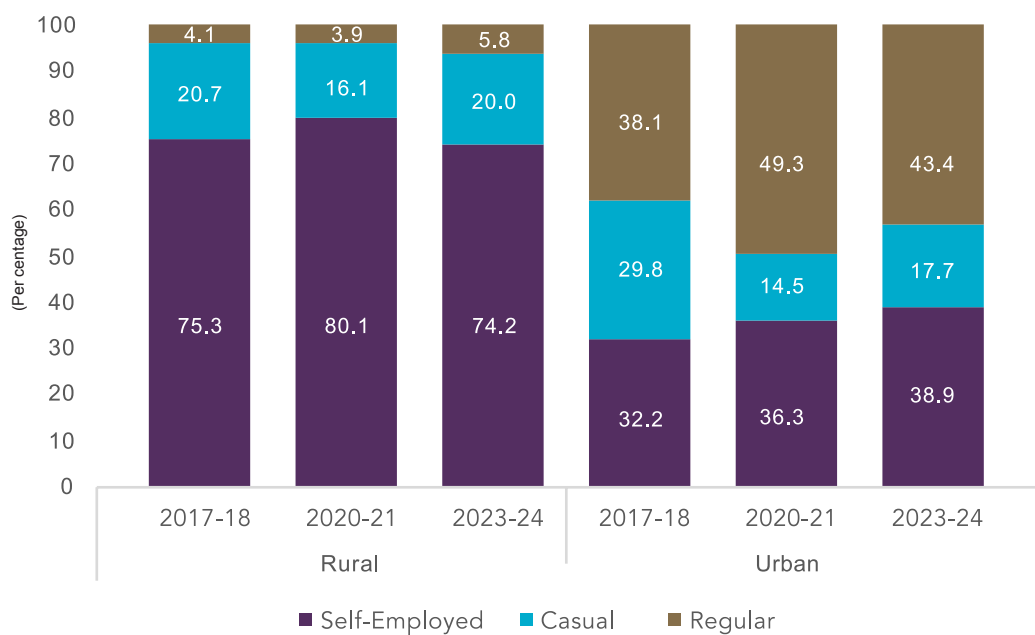
- In rural areas, the proportion of self-employed workers showed little change, remaining fairly constant at around 75 per cent between 2017-18 and 2023-24 (75.3 per cent and 74.2 per cent, respectively). As a result, the proportions of casual and regularly salaried workers also experienced minimal shifts during this period. This stability in rural employment structure contrasts with the broader national trend.

¹ <https://visionnewsservice.in/single-page/115210>



- Urban areas witnessed an increase in the proportion of self-employed women, rising from 32.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 38.9 per cent in 2023-24. Concurrently, the proportion of women in casual employment declined sharply from 30 per cent to 18 per cent during the same period. In contrast to the national trend in India, the share of regularly salaried women workers increased from 38 per cent in 2017-18 to 43.4 per cent in 2023-24. Thus, the increase in both self-employment and regular salaried employment among women in the state likely corresponded with a shrinking share of casual employment.

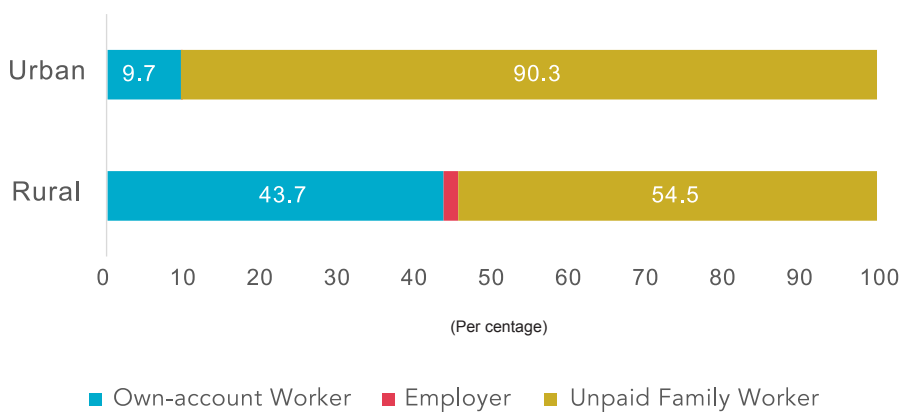
Figure 2: Women Workforce Distribution across Type of Employment



*For ages 15 years and above

- In rural Chhattisgarh, unpaid family work dominates among self-employed women, accounting for 90.3 per cent of the share, while the remaining 9.8 per cent are own-account workers.
- Unlike the all India trend, 54.5 per cent of self-employed women are unpaid family workers and 43.7 per cent are own-account workers.

Figure 3: Distribution of Self-Employed Women



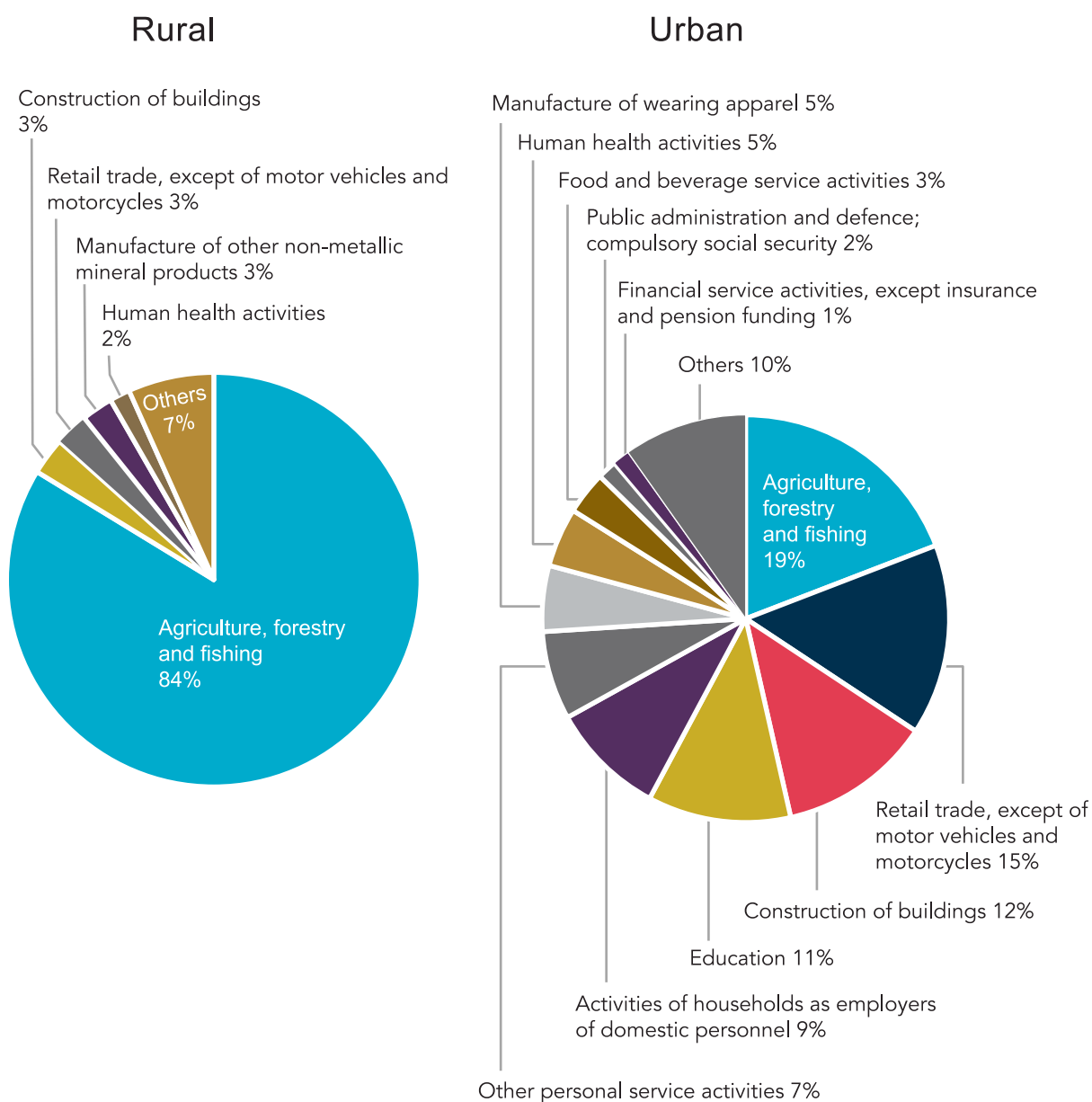
*For ages 15 years and above



Distribution of Women Workers by Broad Industry Divisions

- Reflecting the national trend, the sectoral distribution of women in rural Chhattisgarh shows that nearly 84 per cent are employed in agriculture and allied activities, followed by building construction and retail trade with 3 per cent each.
- In urban areas, 19 per cent of women are in agriculture, 15.2 per cent are in retail trade, and 11 per cent are in building construction.

Figure 4: Distribution of Women Workforce by Broad Industry Divisions



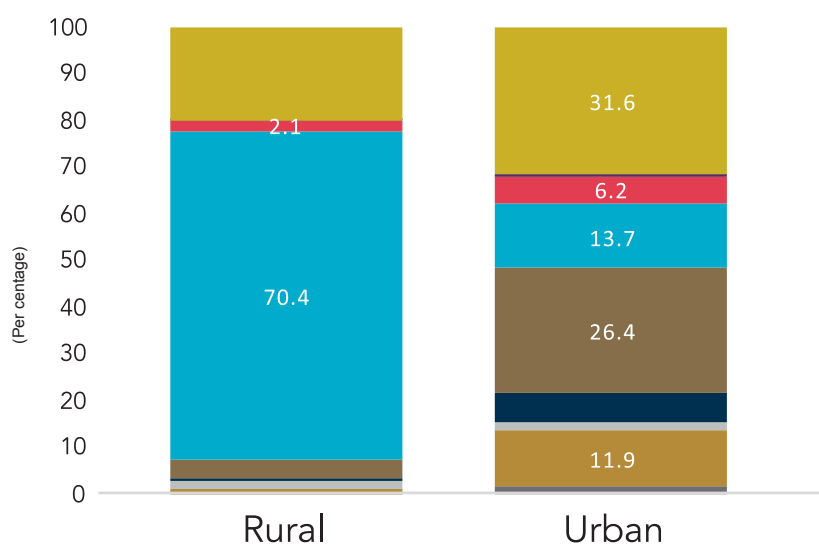
*For ages 15 years and above



Distribution of Women Workers by Occupation Types

- In the rural region of the state, more than 70 per cent of women are skilled agricultural and fishery workers, followed by 20 per cent in elementary occupations.
- In urban areas, workers in elementary occupations make up the largest share 32 per cent, followed by service workers and shop and market sales workers (26 per cent).

Figure 5: Occupational Classification of Women Workers



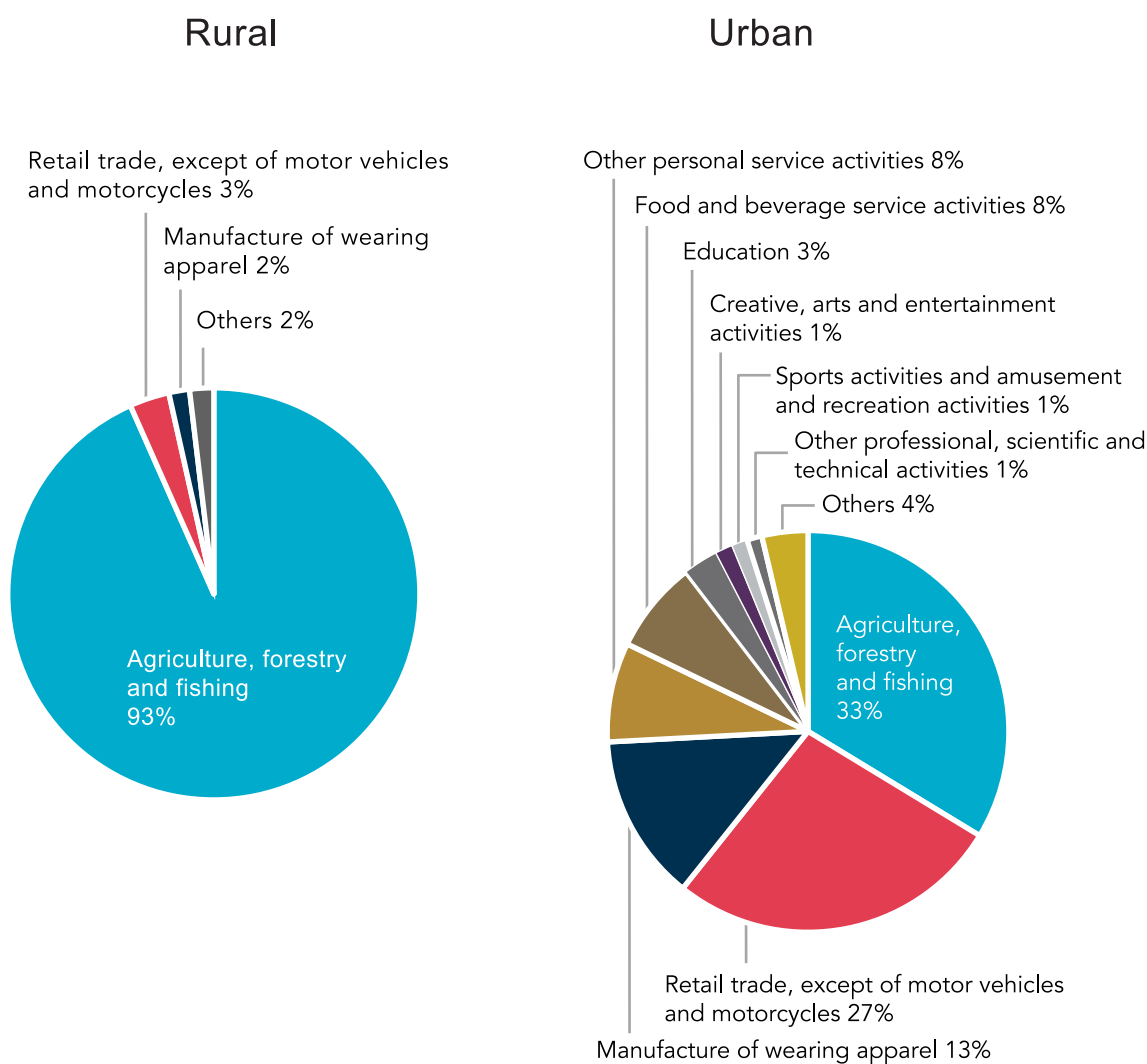
- Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers
- Technicians and Associate Professionals
- Service Workers and Shop & Market Sales Workers
- Craft and related Trades Workers
- Elementary Occupations
- Professionals
- Clerks
- Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers
- Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers



Distribution of Self-employed Women Workers by Broad Industry Types

- Among self-employed women in rural Chhattisgarh, over 93.4 per cent work in agriculture, followed by retail trade of 3.1 per cent, similar to the national trend.
- The urban distribution is majorly dominated by the agricultural and retail trade sectors with the share of 34 and 27 per cent respectively.

Figure 6: Distribution of Self-employed Women Workforce by Broad Industry Types

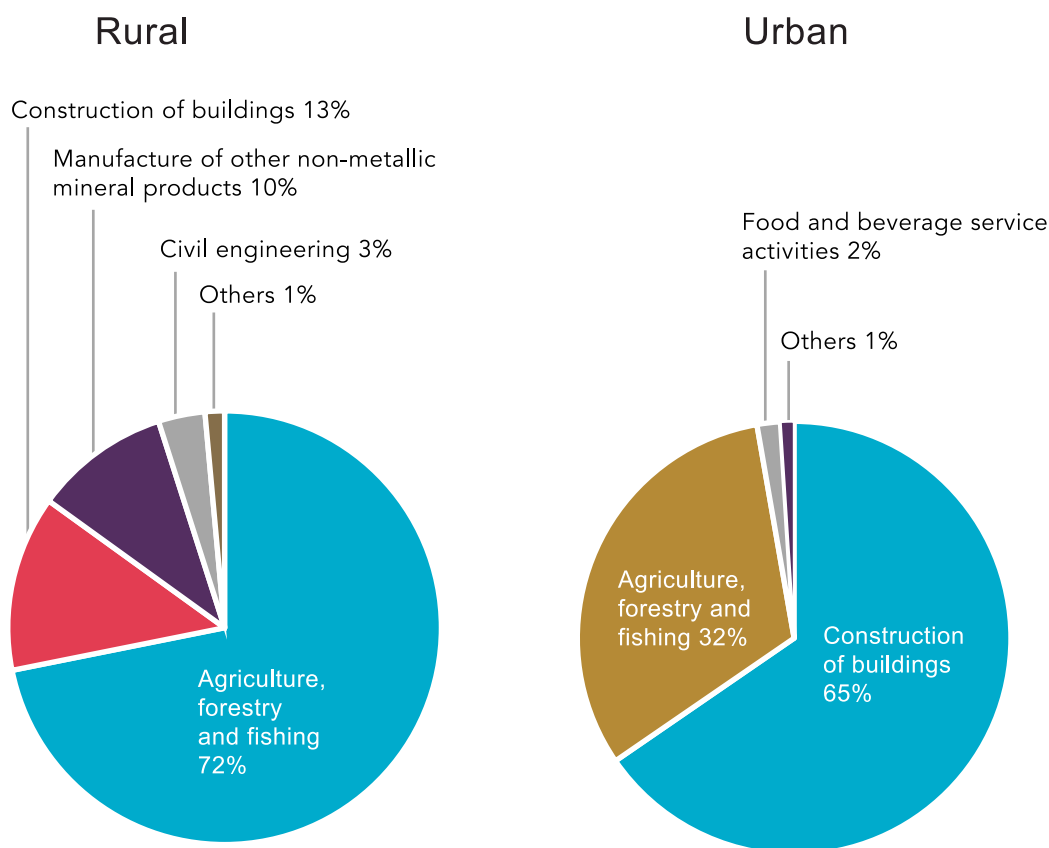


*For ages 15 years and above

Distribution of Casual Women Workers by Broad Industry Types

- In rural areas, 72 per cent of casual women are in agriculture, and 13 per cent in building construction.s.
- In the urban region, 65.4 per cent of the casual workers are in the construction sector, unlike the national trend, followed by the agriculture sector with a 32 per cent share.

Figure 7: Distribution of Casual Women Workforce by Broad Industry Types

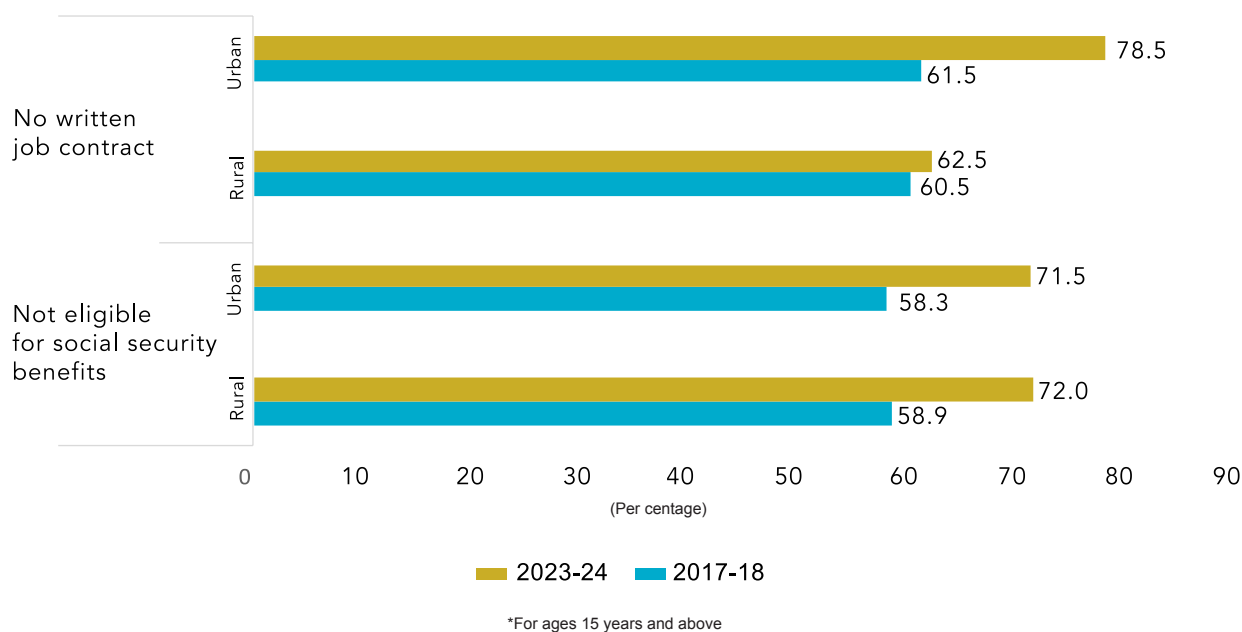


*For ages 15 years and above

Condition of Work in Regular Employment

- Chhattisgarh has witnessed a considerable rise in the per centage of regular salaried working women lacking social security benefits over the past seven years. Rural areas saw an increase from 59 per cent in 2017-18 to 72 per cent in 2023-24, while urban areas experienced a more substantial jump from 58.3 per cent to 71.5 per cent during the same timeframe.
- Concerning job security, the proportion of regularly salaried women in rural areas without written job contracts has shown a slight increase from 60.6 per cent in 2017-18 to 62.5 per cent in 2023-24. In contrast, urban areas have experienced a significant rise in the proportion of women without job security, increasing from 62 per cent in 2017-18 to 78.5 per cent in 2023-24.

Figure 8: Presence of Social Security and Job Contracts-For Regular Salaried Women

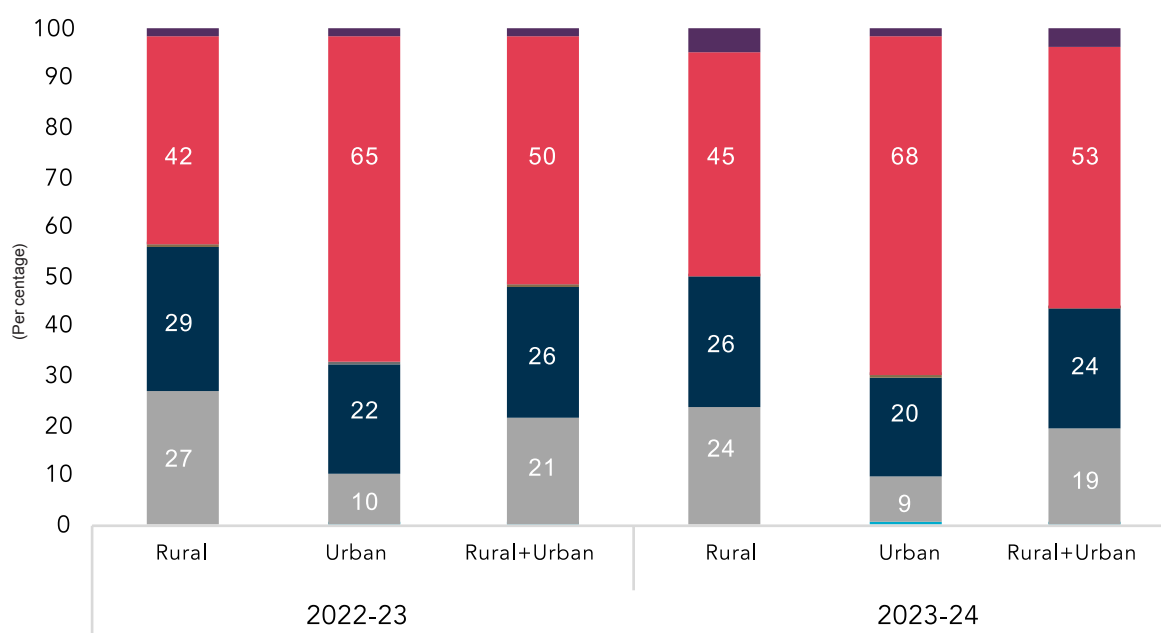


Reason for Not Being in the Labour Force

- In rural areas, the proportion of women identifying childcare and domestic chores as the main obstacle to their participation in the FLFPR rose from 42 to 45 per cent within a single year. This trend is contrary to that observed for rural women across India, childcare and domestic chores as a reason for being outside the labour force has decreased. Similarly, in urban areas, this proportion increased from 65 to 68 per cent over the same year.



Figure 9: Reason For Not Being in the Labour Force



- Did not have the request train/qualification/age for work
- Health/age related reason
- Social reasons
- Child care/personal commitments in home making
- Non availability of work a convenient location
- Want to continue study
- Finacially well-off
- Others

Conclusion

Although Chhattisgarh's high Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) is noteworthy compared to other Indian states and the national average, its concentration in the rural sector, mirroring the national trend of increased self-employment in agriculture, suggests the presence of distress-driven employment within the state. Notably, over 90 per cent of self-employed women in the state are unpaid family labourers, raising significant concerns about the state's labour market, where high FLFPR appears to be driven by economic distress. Although the urban sector shows a positive trend with a rise in regular salaried employment, this is tempered by a concerning decline in job and social security benefits for these working women over the past seven years. Furthermore, despite the high overall FLFPR, women outside the labour force frequently cite childcare and domestic chores as major barriers to participation. This paints a concerning 'double whammy' scenario: distress-driven unpaid family work (self-employment) in rural areas coupled with childcare and domestic responsibilities hindering labour force entry. Consequently, policymakers should prioritize creating higher-quality jobs and diverse opportunities beyond agriculture, with a particular focus on rural regions, to truly enhance both the quantity and quality of female labour force participation in the state.



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