

## A STUDY OF THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES AND THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED UNDER EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMMES IN MAHARASHTRA

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article History:</b> Received: 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 Accepted: 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 Published: 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2026</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Beneficiaries, Expenditure, Employment, Apprenticeship, Entrepreneurship and Maharashtra.</p>	<p>This study examines the number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred under major employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra from 2019-20 to 2024-25. The study is based entirely on secondary data collected from official sources such as Commissioner for Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship, Directorate of Vocational Education and Training and Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra. The analysis covers major programmes related to employment promotion, apprenticeship training and entrepreneurship development. Statistical tools such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of variation and compound annual growth rate have been used to analyse trends and fluctuations in beneficiaries and expenditure. The findings reveal significant fluctuations and declining growth trends in beneficiaries and expenditure in most of the programmes, which indicates issues related to sustainability, regional reach and effective use of funds. The study highlights the need to strengthen the implementation mechanism to enhance employment generation in Maharashtra and ensure efficient allocation of public resources.</p>

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**➤ Introduction**

Employment promotion programmes play a vital role in addressing the problem of unemployment and underemployment in developing economies like India. Rapid population growth, structural changes in the economy and uneven regional development have created significant challenges in generating adequate employment opportunities. In this context, government intervention through planned employment promotion programmes has become essential to ensure inclusive growth, social justice and economic stability.

Maharashtra, one of the most industrialized and economically advanced states in India, has a different employment picture. Although the state has seen significant growth in industrial, services and agriculture sectors, there remains a gap in employment opportunities across regions like Marathwada, Vidarbha, Konkan and Western Maharashtra. The urban-rural divide, skill mismatch and regional imbalances have further increased the need for targeted employment promotion programmes.

The Government of Maharashtra, in coordination with the Central Government, has implemented various employment promotion programmes with the aim of generating wage employment, promoting self-employment and enhancing skill development. Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Skill Development Mission and other state-sponsored initiatives are designed to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to various sections of the society, especially the economically weaker and marginalised groups.

An important aspect of evaluating these employment incentive programs is understanding the number of beneficiaries and the costs incurred. The number of beneficiaries reflects the reach and effectiveness of the schemes, while the level and pattern of spending indicate government commitment, financial efficiency, and resource allocation priorities. Analysing these aspects helps assess whether the programs are meeting their intended objectives and providing value for public funds.

Although employment promotion programs incur significant public expenditure, questions remain about their effectiveness, regional distribution, and long-term impact on employment generation in Maharashtra. The variation in beneficiary coverage and spending across districts and programs indicates implementation challenges, administrative hurdles, and differential access to the schemes. These issues require systematic and empirical examination of the performance of the programs.

Against this backdrop, this study focuses on analysing the number of beneficiaries and expenditure under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra. This study seeks to provide insights into the trends, patterns and interrelationships between beneficiary coverage and financial expenditure, thereby contributing to policy assessment and providing useful inputs for improving the design and implementation of employment promotion initiatives in the state.

**➤ Research problems of the Study**

Despite several employment promotion programmes being implemented by the central and state governments in Maharashtra, the problem of unemployment and underemployment persists, especially among rural households, youth and economically weaker sections. Although a large amount of public funds are allocated annually for schemes like MGNREGA, CMEGP and other employment-oriented initiatives, there is limited systematic analysis of whether the expenditure is proportionate to the number of

beneficiaries and the employment outcomes achieved. Regional disparities, differences in the coverage of beneficiaries and differences in fund utilization across districts raise concerns about the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of these programmes. Therefore, the main research problem of this study is to examine the relationship between the number of beneficiaries and expenditure under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra and to identify implementation gaps that may affect their overall impact on employment generation and socio-economic development.

➤ **Objectives of the Research Study**

1. To study the number of beneficiaries incurred under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra.
2. An analysis the expenditure incurred under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra.
3. To suggest measures for improvement if necessary.

➤ **Research Methodology of the Study**

Only secondary data has been collected from Books, Journals, Gazetteer, RBI Report, Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, Directorate of Vocational Education and Training, Government of Maharashtra and Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra (2019-20 to 2024-25).

➤ **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table No. 1**

**Number of beneficiaries and the expenditure incurred under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra**

(Expenditure Rs. Lakh)

Sr. No.	Year	Employment promotion		Apprenticeship training		Entrepreneurship Development Training	
		Beneficiaries	expenditure	Beneficiaries	expenditure	Beneficiaries	expenditure
1	2019-20	27860	195.13	36660	1625.77	34562	1288.58
2	2020-21	21357	53.43	34103	1623.25	-	-
3	2021-22	24015	186.33	29468	1502.58	50944	1926.00
4	2022-23	23528	197.30	31135	1723.50	54811	1906.00
5	2023-24	27451	280.02	26697	1402.81	19747	689.00
6	2024-25	2338	110.00	32046	1385.30	16813	538.29
<b>Average</b>		<b>21091.50</b>	<b>170.37</b>	<b>31684.83</b>	<b>1543.87</b>	<b>35578.75</b>	<b>1264.82</b>
<b>SD</b>		<b>9513.19</b>	<b>78.66</b>	<b>3487.85</b>	<b>135.66</b>	<b>20072.93</b>	<b>754.47</b>
<b>CV</b>		<b>45.10</b>	<b>46.17</b>	<b>11.01</b>	<b>8.79</b>	<b>56.42</b>	<b>59.65</b>
<b>CAGR</b>		<b>-0.39</b>	<b>-0.11</b>	<b>-0.03</b>	<b>-0.03</b>	<b>-0.31</b>	<b>-0.35</b>
<b>Maximum</b>		<b>27860</b>	<b>280.02</b>	<b>36660</b>	<b>1723.5</b>	<b>54811</b>	<b>1926</b>
<b>Minimum</b>		<b>2338</b>	<b>53.43</b>	<b>26697</b>	<b>1385.3</b>	<b>16813</b>	<b>538.29</b>

**Source:** - 1. Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra (2019-20 to 2024-25). 2. Directorate of Vocational Education and Training, Government of

Maharashtra (2019-20 to 2024-25). 3. Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra (2019-20 to 2024-25).

In this table no. 1 shows that the number of the beneficiaries and the expenditure incurred under employment promotion programmes in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25. The average of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was 21091.50. The compound annual growth rate of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.39 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 45.10 percent respectively. The maximum employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra has been observed as 27860. Likewise the minimum employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 2338 during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra is fluctuating.

The average of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was ₹170.37 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.11 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra was 46.17 percent respectively. The maximum employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra has been observed as ₹280.02 lakh. Likewise the minimum employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra was ₹53.43 lakh during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra is fluctuating.

The average of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was 31684.83. The compound annual growth rate of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.03 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 11.01 percent respectively. The maximum apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra has been observed as 36660. Likewise the minimum apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 26697 during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra is fluctuating.

The average of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was ₹1543.87 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.03 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra was 8.79 percent respectively. The maximum apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra has been observed as ₹1723.5 lakh. Likewise the minimum apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra was ₹1385.3 lakh during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra is fluctuating.

The average of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2021-22 to 2024-25 was 35578.75. The compound annual growth rate of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.31 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 56.42 percent respectively. The maximum Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra has been observed as 54811. Likewise the minimum Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 16813 during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra is decreasing.

The average of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2021-22 to 2024-25 was ₹1264.82 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.35 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra was 59.65 percent respectively. The maximum Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra has been observed as ₹1926 lakh. Likewise the minimum Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra was ₹538.29 lakh during the study period. Hence in short it can be stated that the Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra is decreasing.

➤ **Conclusions**

1. The average of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was 21091.50. The compound annual growth rate of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.39 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of employment promotion beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 45.10 percent respectively.
2. The average of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was ₹170.37 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.11 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of employment promotion expenditure in Maharashtra was 46.17 percent respectively.
3. The average of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was 31684.83. The compound annual growth rate of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.03 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of apprenticeship training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 11.01 percent respectively.
4. The average of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 was ₹1543.87 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.03 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of apprenticeship training expenditure in Maharashtra was 8.79 percent respectively.
5. The average of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra during the year 2021-22 to 2024-25 was 35578.75. The compound annual growth rate of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was -0.31 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of Entrepreneurship Development Training beneficiaries in Maharashtra was 56.42 percent respectively.
6. The average of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra during the year 2021-22 to 2024-25 was ₹1264.82 lakh. The compound annual growth rate of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra was -0.35 percent respectively. The coefficient of variance of Entrepreneurship Development Training expenditure in Maharashtra was 59.65 percent respectively.

➤ **Suggestions**

Based on the findings of the study, it is suggested that the Maharashtra government should focus on improving the sustainability and continuity of employment promotion programmes by ensuring timely allocation and effective utilization of funds. To reduce regional disparities in beneficiary coverage, more emphasis should be placed on region-specific planning, especially in backward regions like Vidarbha and

Marathwada. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms can help reduce cost fluctuations and improve programme efficiency. Skill-oriented training and entrepreneurship development initiatives should be aligned with local market demand to enhance long-term employment sustainability. Moreover, awareness campaigns and simplified administrative procedures can help increase beneficiary participation and ensure inclusive growth through employment promotion programmes.

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