

Incidence of Unemployment Among Educated Youth

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Abstract

Unemployment is not only an economic problem; it is mother of almost all the problems ranging from economic, political, social, educational, psychological, emotional, cultural, ethnical and religious, to any other category of problems encountered by people and the nations. If it is solved, half of the problems in the world would end up in a jiffy. Unemployment is a problem that gradually eats away the very vitalities of the nation and tends to corrupt the life of the people inhabiting it. Unemployment sometimes leads to the problems which could have been averted only if the government of the nation could provide some sort of fruitful economic activity for the people to sustain their lives. It is a hard reality of almost all the underdeveloped and developing nations that they find it difficult to deal with this gigantic problem and just fall into its trap. The nations which suffer from the problem of unemployment can hardly develop with full force and do what they are capable of. It is with this thought that that present paper analyses the problem of unemployment from the perspective of education as the cause of unemployment.

Keywords: Unemployment, Educated, Developing Nations etc.

Introduction

“Education is understood as a guarantee to success, but it may in certain cases be the person’s greatest hesitant hurdle to reach and grab any given type of available job opportunity. Being educated is an entitlement for a better and respectable job; one cannot go for petty and menial jobs.”

“Educated unemployment is the term that is understood to mean that a person is unemployed despite being

educated and it spikes with the increase in the level of education.”

The glaring news in some of the leading newspapers bears testimony that the unemployment among educated youth is three times that of the national average. The rate of unemployment recorded highest reading of 7.38 percent in the year 2018. This estimate can be called upon as the highest in last four decades. If this is all-round rate of unemployment, unemployment among the educated youth is much higher.

Employment among the educated youth is a phenomenon which means two different things in two different situations. Number one is the situation where the person is educated and he is not getting any job to earn his livelihood and second is the case where the person concerned is not ready to do the job which he or she thinks is below the cadre of their level of education. Reason may be any but the end result is the status of joblessness even after obtaining education. The condition of educated people is sometimes more serious than the one who are not educated, because people who are not educated can pick up any type of job as they do not suffer from the notion that they are at some disadvantage and anyone would comment on them if they do any petty job, i.e., they are not ashamed of doing any type of job whatsoever it is. This is the phenomenon which is causing a large-scale discontentment among educated people.

Need of the Study

Employment of educated youth is a very dangerous proposition as it may lead the productive forces of youth towards taking some sort of un-trodden path that is not productive or may lead to the tendencies that work against them and the nation as a whole. In both the cases, educated youth is to suffer. The onus of saving the youth of the nation lies not only on government, but the society

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should also work and contribute in this direction to weed out the feeling from the masses that any type of job is of higher or lower level. If a situation arises, a person can pick any job to earn his bread.

It is with the thought that education is acting as a hurdle in many cases for earning livelihood, the present paper has been written. It endeavours to put forward the different levels of education and employment associated with them.

Unemployment on the Basis of Age

Table 1: Unemployment Rates* by Age Group: 1999-2000

(As Percent of Labour Force)

Age Group	Unemployment Rate		
	Rural	Urban	Combined
15-19	13.3 (8.8)	19.0 (16.6)	14.4 (10.3)
20-24	11.8 (9.8)	18.7 (19.2)	13.5 (12.0)
25-29	8.7 (7.4)	10.9 (10.4)	9.2 (8.1)
Sub Group (15-29)	11.0 (8.6)	15.5 (15.0)	12.1 (10.11)
30-34	6.1	4.9	5.8
35-39	5.0	3.7	4.6
40-44	4.8	2.7	4.2
45-49	4.6	2.4	3.9
50-54	4.5	2.1	3.9
55-59	4.6	2.0	4.0
60 & Above	3.5	3.8	3.5
All Age Groups	7.2 (5.6)	7.7 (73.4)	7.3 (6.0)

*Unemployment Rates are on Current Daily Status.

Figures in Parenthesis give the Comparative Estimates for 1993-94.

Source: NSSO, 50th (1993-94) and 55th (1999-2000) Round Surveys.

Table 1 presents the rates of unemployment for the levels of different age groups. It gives the rate of unemployment as a percentage of labour force. The table presents the rates of unemployment existing among the youth of India, in the age group of 15-29 years. They are ideally the new entrants into the job market and require a starting that guarantees a good start for their career and can form a good base for their future as well. This is also essential

as this is the strata of the workforce which can guarantee better economic growth and development of the nation, but even the best efforts of the governments headed by the best elected political parties have failed miserably in their efforts to provide employment to the teeming millions of Indian subcontinent. It is disheartening to note that the rate of unemployment was higher during the post-reforms period, and was recorded as 12.5 percent for youth of the nation and it comprised of 11.0 percent for youth of rural areas; for urban youth, it was 15.5 percent.

Unemployment Rates by Level of Education

The rates of unemployment among youth, on the basis of Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) criterion, have been presented in Tables 2 and 3. The tables present an interesting data pertaining to the unemployment among the youth of India that the rate of unemployment was higher in the category of youth who were educated. And in many cases, higher the level of education, higher was the rate of unemployment rate in that category.

In Indian economy, educated unemployment exists among the category of youth who have acquired education of secondary or the level above that. Educated people mostly remain unemployed owing to a simple reason because they become depressive at the question of picking any type of job which they feel is below the level of their education or find it petty.

Table 2: Unemployment Rates* by Level of Education

(As Percent of Labour Force)

Education Level	Unemployment Rate		
	1987-88	1993-94	1999-2000
Not Literate	1.1	0.2	0.2
Literate up to Primary	1.9	0.9	1.2
Middle	5.3	3.4	3.3
Secondary	8.7	6.2	5.5
Higher Secondary	--	8.7	7.8
Graduate and Above	9.9	9.3	8.8
Educated (Secondary and Above)	9.0	7.7	7.1
All	2.7	1.9	2.2

*Unemployment Rates on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS).

Source: NSSO Surveys, 43rd Round (1987-88), 50th Round (1993-94) and 55th Round (1999-2000).

Table 3: Unemployment Rates by Level of Education

Education Level	Unemployment Rate (2004-05)			
	Male		Female	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Not Literate	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.3
Literate up to Primary	1.0	2.1	1.1	2.9
Middle	1.6	4.2	3.4	8.0
Secondary	3.2	4.3	9.5	13.4
Higher Secondary	4.7	4.3	17.1	15.0
Graduate and Above	6.3	6.1	28.8	17.7
Educated (Secondary and Above)	4.4	5.1	15.2	15.6
All	1.6	3.7	1.8	6.9

Source: NSSO, 61st Round.

The rate of unemployment among the youth who were educated stood at 18.5 percent in the year of 1993-94 as shown in Table 4 given below, which comprised of 20.8 percent in the areas which were of urban origin and 17.0 percent for the areas which were rural. This rate of unemployment showed some decline in the year of 1999-

2000 and became 14.8 percent which comprised of 18.3 percent in urban and 12.5 percent in areas of rural origin. Unemployment rates for the youth who were having some sort of technical education was 27.3 percent in the year of 1993-94, which again witnessed a declining trend and was 23.7 percent in 1999-2000.

Table 4: Unemployment Rates* Among Educated Youth (%)

	Secondary Education and Above			All Types of Technical Education		
1983	20.4 (2.5)	30.0 (10.7)	20.7 (4.2)	25.0	23.9	24.4
1987-88	15.9 (3.8)	16.6 (12.1)	16.2 (5.4)	24.0	20.7	22.1
1993-94	17.0 (2.9)	20.8 (10.8)	18.5 (4.6)	29.0	25.9	27.3
1999-2000	12.5 (3.7)	18.3 (11.2)	14.8 (5.4)	22.8	24.5	23.7

*On Usual Status Basis

Note: 1. Technical Education Comprises of additional Diplomas or Certificates in Agriculture, Engineering/ Technology, Medicine, Crafts and Other Subjects.

2. Youth means age group 15-29.

3. Figures in the brackets show unemployment rate among the youth as a whole.

Source: NSSO Surveys.

Limitations

A major limitation of study is that the data taken in the present paper are not recent. The latest data are not available in structured format. But, this limitation can be overcome with an assumption that the data as such are not that important as the phenomenon related with it. As it is

a truth that is visible far and wide and it is the tendency that tends to exist in people in general who are educated.

Conclusion

After pondering over all the facts presented in the paragraphs given above, we may confidently conclude

that there is a definite and widely visible tendency among educated people to not grab the jobs which do not suite their education standards. They feel hesitant in picking up the jobs that do not happen to fall under the label of respectable tagline and prefer to remain unemployed in comparison to be labelled as employed with some petty job. It is required on the part of the government to frame policies to provide some sort of vocational education so that they do not find it difficult to earn their livelihood even if they fail to grab some job in the organised or unorganised sector.

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NSSO Surveys, 43rd Round (1987-88), 50th Round (1993-94) and 55th Round (1999-2000).
NSSO, 61st Round.