



A Study On The Nature Of Unemployment Among Educated Youth In Kerala

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ABSTRACT: The youth account for around 23 per cent of Kerala's population. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report suggests that unemployment rates are high for the young population of Kerala among other age groups. The present study is intended to examine the nature of unemployment among educated youth in Kerala. It also examined the challenges faced by the unemployed youth. The primary data were collected from randomly selected 50 unemployed educated youth from Guruvayur Municipality in Thrissur district of Kerala. Unemployment Challenges Index is constructed for measuring the problems faced by the respondents due to unemployment. Majority of the respondents are experiencing voluntary unemployment. Regarding the reasons for voluntary unemployment, majority of the respondents have child care problems. Erosion of confidence and self-esteem is the major problem faced by the respondents due to unemployment. Severe financial hardship, family tension, increased social isolation and negative impact on mental health are the other challenges faced by the respondents. The majority of the respondents experienced high level of challenges due to unemployment.

Key Words: Unemployment, Voluntary Unemployment, Educated youth, Unemployment Challenges Index.

1. INTRODUCTION

India's educated youth are facing some serious issues like educated unemployment and underemployment. Educated unemployment is due to a mismatch between the aspirations of graduates and the employment opportunities available to them. Unemployment is a phenomenon that occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. Educated unemployment is when a person is educated and is not able to find a suitable and efficient job for himself. This also occurs when there is a large number of graduates or postgraduates, but limited job opportunities. Youth unemployment in India is among the major concerns and is one of the most widely discussed issues, yet it has hardly seen any resolution.

The youth account for around 23 per cent of Kerala's population. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report suggests that unemployment rates are high for the young population of Kerala among other age groups. The unemployment rate among youth is 36.9 per cent in rural areas and 33.8 per cent in urban areas. According to the Kerala Economic Review 2021, the overall unemployment rate in Kerala is 10 percent in 2019-2020 which is higher than the national average of 4.8 percent. For educated (secondary and above) persons of age 15 years and above, the unemployment rate in Kerala is 16.7 percent. Though Kerala surpassed the other Indian states in literacy, education and health statistics, it fails to provide employment for its young population.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The current demography of India with its young population would be bliss for the nation. In India the dependency ratio is mere 48.7. India has more than 50 percent of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65 percent below the age of 35. The problem of unemployment among youth is one of the severe problem facing our country. The unemployment rate is much higher in Kerala as compared to other states of India, despite these other states having underperformed as compared to Kerala in the field of education. Educated unemployment is high in Kerala. Though education plays an important role in finding employment, there are other troubles which prevent the workforce from finding meaningful employment in Kerala. In this scenario it is significant to study the nature, challenges and causes of unemployment among educated youth in Kerala.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Venkatanarayana, M., & Mahendra Dev, S (2012) in their study "Youth employment and unemployment in India" disclosed that an increase in the share of the youth population due to demographic 'dividend' or the 'youth bulge' seems to be one of the sources of future growth in India. Although with increase in school and college registration rates, the proportion of youth in the labour force has been declining, their high proportions in the labour force designate that the problem of youth unemployment and underemployment would remain a serious policy issue for many more years to come in India.

Prakash, B. A. (2002) examines the incidence, type and characteristics of urban employment in Kerala's second largest city(Kochi) , and to offer some clues to explain the high rate of joblessness. According to the results of a sample survey, the urbanisation of Kochi has been associated with a process of casualization of labour, and failure to generate rapid growth of regular employment in the modern organised sector. Besides, joblessness is found to be basically a problem of educated youth, leading to their migration to other parts of India and abroad in search of employment

Mitra, A., & Singh, J. (2020) reveals that there is acceleration in the unemployment rate in recent years along with the convergence of unemployment rate across states. The stagnation in job creation and decline in the total employment in the manufacturing sector and the structural changes in the economy appear to be pushing the unemployment level up. Though per capita income as such is not seen to be related to unemployment rate across states and over time, the structural change and educational attainments do untangle a strong effect. The changes in the rural sector with a decreasing dependence on the farm sector are associated with a increasing unemployment rate.

Arun, S. (2017) revealed that 32 lakhs of the registrants in the Employment Exchange in Kerala are not qualified to be called as educated unemployed. Their educational attainment is SSLC or Plus Two and they could not be employed for jobs demanding skills and education. Study concluded that those factors responsible for the retardation of employment opportunities for the educated youth are jointly contributed by the Political Parties, Trade Unions, the successive State Governments and the Society at large. Regarding the perception of educated youth towards private sector employment and self-employment they are ready to accept private sector employment and undertake self-employment.

Singh, A., Aggarwal, M., & Jain, P. (2019) in their study "Education and Unemployment in Rural and Urban Kerala" found that there is a negative correlation between unemployment and education, indicating that as one becomes more educated, they are more likely to be employed. The benefits of education are reaped more effectively by people living in urban areas as compared to rural areas.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The prevalence of unemployment among educated youth creates several social problems as well. Failure to get suitable employment, despite repeated efforts, causes disappointment and discontentment among the youth. The widespread unemployment reflects defective and inadequate educational manpower planning. The success of planning depends on the proper absorption and full utilization of manpower in the economy. To achieve the objective of full utilization of human resources, attention to the problem of unemployment among educated youth is essential. In this context the, present study is intended to study the nature of unemployment among educated youth in Guruvayur Municipality in Thrissur district of Kerala.

5.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the nature and causes of unemployment among educated youth in Kerala with special reference to Guruvayur Municipality
- To examine the challenges faced by the unemployed youth.

6. DATA SOURCE AND METHODS

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data collected from different publications, website, journals etc. The primary data were collected from randomly selected 50 unemployed educated youth in Guruvayur Municipality in Kerala. The primary data were collected from the samples with the aid of online platform such as Google form. Simple technique like tables, percentages, diagrams and crosstabs were used to analyse the data. The Unemployment Challenges Index is constructed for measuring the problems faced by the respondents due to unemployment.

7. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

7.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Socio economic conditions of respondents are discussed below.

Regarding the religion majority of the respondents (76 percent) are Hindus, 18 percent are Christians and 6 percent are Muslims. Regarding the caste majority of the respondents (44 percent) belongs to OBC category ,38 percent belongs to general category , 16 percent belongs to SC/ST category and 2 percent belongs to OEC category .When analyzing the family type majority of respondents(68 percent) belongs to nuclear family and 32 percent belongs to joint family. Majority of the respondents (60 percent) belongs to the APL category , 40 percent of respondents belongs to the BPL category. Regarding the gender status majority of the respondents (70 percent)are females and only 30 percent are males. Regarding the age of the respondents, majority of the respondents (36 percent) are in between the age group of 24-26, 22 percent are in between 22-24 age group , 22 percent are in between 26-28 age group , 14 percent are in between 20-22 age group , and only 6 percent are in between 28-30 age group . Regarding the marital status majority of respondents (60 percent) are married, 36 percent are unmarried , 4 percent are separated. Regarding the educational qualification of the respondents majority (46 percent) are Arts and science graduates , 22 percent are technical or professional graduates, 16 percent are post graduates and 16 percent are plus two qualified. Regarding the dependency for their livelihood majority (58 percent) depend on husband, 36 percent depend on father, 6 percent depend on mother. Regarding the occupation of the main earner in the family of the respondents, majority (46 percent)are engaged in private sector salaried job, 34 percent are wage labourers,16 percent are involved in business and 4 percent are in public sector.

7.2 NATURE AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE RESPONDENTS

Nature and causes of unemployment among the respondents are discussed below

7.2.1 Perception Regarding the Reasons for unemployment

As the reasons for unemployment majority of respondents (44 percent) think that lack of information about job opportunities was the reason for their unemployment , for 34 percent work is unavailable or hard to find was the reason for their unemployment , 20 respondents think that lack necessary skills or qualifications was the reason for their unemployment and, for 2 percent respondents Manipulation of job test results was the reason for their unemployment.

7.2.2 Preference for Different Type of Occupation among the Respondents

When analysing Preference for occupations among the respondents, 52 percent of the respondents prefer for occupations which are suited to the training /education received and 48 percent respondents prefer any job

7.2.3 Locational Preference for Job among the Respondents

Regarding the locational preference majority of the respondents (58 percent) insist on employment in the home district, 24 percent are willing to move to abroad, 10 percent are willing to move to distant locations in Kerala and 8 percent are willing to move outside Kerala.

7.2.4 Sector Preference for Employment

Regarding the preference for private or public sector majority of respondents (74 percent) prefer for public sector, and 26 percent prefer for private sector job.

7.2.5 Methods Used to Find Job

Regarding the methods used to find job the majority of the respondents (44 percent) used networking /career website. 34 percent respondents used newspaper advertisements to find job, 18 percent respondents contact company directly / use job search platforms and 4 percent respondents depend on job fair.

7.2.6 Nature of unemployment

Regarding the nature of unemployment, majority of the respondents (68 percent) are experiencing voluntary unemployment and 32 percent are experiencing involuntary unemployment.

7.2.7 Reasons for Voluntary Unemployment

Regarding thereasons for voluntary unemployment, majority of the respondents (50 percent) having child care problems, 26.47 percent have personal or family responsibilities and spouse wants them to stay at home and 23.52 percent have other personal reason.

7.3 CHALLENGES FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed people face different kinds of challenges. Unemployment challenges faced by the respondents are discussed below.

TABLE 1: Challenges Faced by the Respondents due to Unemployment

Challenges faced due to unemployment	Never (%)	Rarely (%)	Often (%)	Most of the time (%)	Always (%)	Total (%)
Severe Financial Hardship	10	28	32	24	6	100
Family Tension	26	28	26	12	8	100
Increased Social Isolation	22	28	38	12	0	100
Erosion of Confidence and Self - Esteem	12	14	18	20	36	100
Negative Impact on Mental Health	10	16	22	40	12	100
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: primary data

Table 1 depicts 5-point Likert scale responses to questions related to unemployment challenges faced by the respondents. The majority of the respondents (32 per cent) had often faced the challenges of severe financial hardship. The majority of the respondents (28 per cent) rarely faced the problem of family tension. Majority of the respondents (38 per cent) had often faced the problem of social isolation. The majority of the respondents (36 per cent) had always faced the problem of erosion of confidence and self-esteem and the majority of the respondents (40 per cent) most of the time faced the problem of negative impact on mental health. Erosion of confidence and self-esteem is the major problem faced by the respondents.

Level of Unemployment Challenges Index Among the Respondents

The unemployment Challenges Index is constructed for measuring the problems faced by the respondents due to unemployment. The unemployment Challenges Index is derived from 5-point Likert scale responses to five questions related to problem due to unemployment. For the questions answering, “never” score one is given, “rarely” gets two score, “often” gets three score, “most of the time” gets four score and “always” gets five score. Problem due to unemployment is obtained by totalling the answer to all the questions. Based on this maximum unemployment challenges score is 25 and minimum value of unemployment challenges score is 5. The level of Unemployment Challenges Index among the respondents is classified under 3 categories. Low below 10, Moderate between 10-15 and High above 15.

Table 2: Level of Unemployment Challenges Index among the respondents

Level of Unemployment Challenges Index among the Respondents	Frequency	Per cent
Low	6	12
Moderate	18	36
High	26	52
Total	50	100

Source: primary data

Table 2 depicts the level of the Unemployment Challenges Index of the respondents. Majority of the respondents (52 per cent) have experienced high challenges due to unemployment, 36 percent of respondents are moderately affected and 12 percent have a low level of challenges due to unemployment.

8. CONCLUSION

The majority of the respondents are experiencing voluntary unemployment. Regarding the reasons for voluntary unemployment, majority of the respondents have child care problems. Erosion of confidence and self-esteem is the major problem faced by the respondents due to unemployment. Severe financial hardship, family tension, increased social isolation and negative impact on mental health are the other challenges faced by the respondents. The majority of the respondents experienced high challenges due to unemployment.

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