

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG EDUCATED YOUTHS: THE RISING ISSUE

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Abstract: In the era of the global village, almost every sector has changed, but one thing remains unchanged, i.e., unemployment among educated youths. There has been a continuous rise in unemployment among educated youth, and it has become a serious issue that brings obstacles to social development. Educated youths are knocking on the gates of an organisation in search of a suitable job. Unemployment among educated youth is considered a major issue in India. This paper focuses on the rising issue of unemployment among educated youths. A defective education system, a mismatch between qualifications and jobs, the reservation system and many other factors are major reasons behind the rise of unemployment.

Keywords - Unemployment, Educated, social, psychological, youths.

1. INTRODUCTION-

Unemployment has become an individual identity concern in India, posing a major threat to educated youths. Unemployment among educated youths has become a significant issue. It has become one of the most serious challenges among educated young people. Unemployment occurs when a person is unable to find work that fits their skills.

About 2 million graduates and half a million postgraduates are unemployed in India. Notably, the unemployment rate rises with higher levels of education. At the 'primary' level, unemployment is 3.6%, increasing to 5.2% at matriculation, 8% at graduation, and further to 9.3% at the post-graduate level. Most unemployed individuals come from the Arts and Science streams. The unemployment rate among Arts degree holders increases with qualification level, whereas it declines among science degree holders. For example, 39% of Arts graduates are unemployed, and this rises to 49% among those with professional degrees in Arts. There is higher unemployment among engineering postgraduates compared to ordinary graduates, whereas the reverse is true for Commerce graduates. (Dixit et al., 2011)

According to the most recent employment exchange data in India, nearly 1.5 crore persons with a graduate degree or above are unemployed. More than 1.7 crore of the 1.5 crore are actively seeking work. Those with a PhD or above have the greatest unemployment rate among all groups of educated jobless persons. (Surana and Surana, 2024).

Kerala has the highest unemployment rate in India, with a total of 29.9%. This indicates limited employment prospects despite high educational attainment in the state, with structural concerns such as skill-job mismatch, reliance on service sector occupations, and gender-based obstacles to labour participation. Unemployment among educated young people has far-reaching consequences for both the economy and society. Frustration, loss of motivation, brain drain, and societal unrest are some of the significant consequences of dealing with the issue effectively. (Vidhyasagar, 2025)

The high unemployment rate, particularly among educated young people, is attributed to a lack of an industrial foundation. Unemployment is an increasing issue. Unemployment affects a man not only physically and psychologically, but also causes a sharp decline in human values. The paucity of jobs in the public sector has created a negative mindset among youths, who believe the public sector is corrupt, and the other reason is the reservation policy. (Nakro, 2025)

2. LITERATURE REVIEW-

Parmar's 2020 study emphasises that the issue of unemployment is not new. There is substantial evidence that suicidal inclinations are more common in jobless persons. This research examines the levels of satisfaction and identifies disparities in life satisfaction. It investigates the idea that life happiness is a multidimensional term, emphasising the interaction between many dimensions. According to the most recent employment exchange data in India, nearly 1.5 crore persons with a graduate degree or above are unemployed. More than 1.7 crore of the 1.5 crore are actively seeking work. Those with a PhD or above have the greatest unemployment rate among all groups of educated jobless persons.

Vidhyasagar's 2025 study focuses on the reality that educated youngsters in India are unemployed as a result of a mismatch between academic learning and industry-specific abilities. This research reveals that the most affected are the youngsters who have finished graduate education and higher, because they are devoting their time to preparation for government examinations.

Nakro's 2025 study in Manipur revealed that around 87.7% of educated adolescents are unhappy in their daily lives and have acquired a negative attitude toward government work. The study focused on the unemployment rate among educated youths and stated that life in the hills is difficult in terms of development.

Villiami and Savithiri (2020) reveal the fact that females are paid less than males. The majority of the females are landing prestigious positions, yet they are useless since they are still unemployed. This study focuses on the obstacles that women face, and the greater employment rate of women remains a chronic issue.

Surana and Surana (2024) suggested that unemployment can hinder a nation's economic and social advancement as well as prevent people from moving up the social ladder. It also shows that the most impacted youngsters are those with the greatest qualifications, including those with doctorates, who are seeking a job.

Rani and Reena (2025) explore the challenges faced by educated youths in Haryana using the Human Development Index. It highlights the wider consequences for both rural and urban human development. This paper promotes a comprehensive and inclusive approach to human development in Haryana by reflecting on advancements and providing a roadmap for future initiatives.

Dixit et al. (2011) examine the primary causes of educated unemployment, which include a lack of adequate career opportunities, family obligations, and job scarcity. According to the study, the percentage of people with arts degrees who are unemployed rises with the increase in their level of education, whereas it falls for those with science degrees. 39% of Arts graduates are unemployed; among those with professional degrees in the Arts stream, this number increases to 49%. The best approach to address unemployment is to offer both vocational and educational guidance.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted using secondary data. It seeks to look into the issues and concerns confronting jobless educated adolescents in contemporary India by gathering data from various sources. Additionally, the study will take into account differences in various domains and associated factors that might impact the experiences of young people, acknowledging the difficulties.

4. SOCIAL FACTORS:

Regarding social factors, unemployment among educated youths faces numerous social barriers. Even after earning degrees, they often struggle to find suitable employment, which can also challenge their parents. Due to peer pressure and familial problems, many educated young people end up in low-paid jobs like sales or delivery. At this point, individuals frequently believe that their primary responsibility is to provide for their families, particularly in light of the frequent social enquiries from family members.

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS-

Unemployment has primarily impacted individuals psychologically rather than socially. Among youths, it can lead to involvement in criminal activities driven by frustration, stress, and drug use. The most affected are graduates and highly educated youths who spend years preparing for exams. Unemployment disrupts daily life by harming health and mental well-being, resulting in more frequent doctor visits.

Research shows that one year of unemployment can shorten life expectancy by five years. Among youth, there is a rising trend in hypertension, heart issues, psychoneurosis, depression, and suicide, along with behaviours such as joining anti-social groups. Instances of alcoholism, drug addiction, smoking, and reckless driving have also increased. These actions can be seen as acts of defiance against society, stemming from low self-esteem caused by unemployment or the inability to contribute productively. The suicide rate among high school students has been consistently increasing. (Dixit et al. 2011)

6. RECOMMENDATIONS-

- a. The government should pursue comprehensive measures to eliminate unemployment among educated youths.
- b. The government should establish vocational training boot camps in each panchayat or district, providing 3-6 months of basic training in high-demand trades.
- c. The government should introduce standardised testing to certify skills gained via informal employment, allowing informal workers to access markets without a degree.
- d. In an era where AI is substituting basic labour, the government should pressure the company to augment rather than replace low-skilled or basic labour by providing training using an augmented reality headset to demonstrate or guide uneducated workers through complex assembly or repair tasks.
- e. Focusing on non-automatable services and economies would help to eradicate unemployment among educated youths.

7. CONCLUSION-

With the advent of globalisation, privatisation, and modernisation, nearly every industry has seen significant transformation. It is believed that the younger generation has the responsibility of propelling future economic success since they are the main pillar of the country's prosperity. Despite the abundance of jobs in the private sector, youth unemployment among educated individuals continues to rise. Young people with an education are competing for a good job by knocking on the gates of an organisation. Despite spending nearly half of their life preparing for the competitive exam, they're unable to secure employment. As a result, they changed their objectives and entered a different profession where their qualifications and job competencies remained conflicting. One of the biggest problems facing the nation right now is the widespread unemployment of young people with the necessary skills.

8. REFERENCES-

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