

GREEN EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA: TRACKING THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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ABSTRACT:

In most developing countries that are growing robustly and have a rising working-age population, unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges. The transition to a green economy has emerged as a new way of job creation. The study explores how the shift towards environmentally sustainable economic activities is affecting the labour market through the creation of new jobs. Also, this paper discusses the extent of green employment as a solution to the problem of youth unemployment. It addresses the notion of green employment, explores different sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management, etc., that create employment opportunities. Based on existing literature, the study concludes that green employment can help to reduce youth unemployment while supporting environmental goals.

Keywords: Green Economy, Sustainable Agriculture, Renewable Energy, labour market

INTRODUCTION

Green Employment refers to job opportunities that contribute to environmental sustainability through activities such as reducing pollution, Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions, conserving natural resources, improving energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable production and consumption. These days, in the job market, major changes can be seen due to the sustainable economy. Creation of green employment is also one of them. In the US, about 19.4% of workers are employed in green jobs. alex bowen et al. (2018).

Now, there are two categories of jobs: Green and Non-green. Green jobs can be created in all industries at all levels of education. Green jobs provide a lot of job opportunities in South Africa (clair, 2012). Green jobs are a term used to refer to employment in a narrow set of industries providing environmental services, or it can be seen as those connected to environmental objectives and policies (Olalekan, 2019). Green jobs are also concerned with how local government should focus on supporting green jobs. A green economy can create more jobs around the world while protecting the environment. Green innovation is anticipated to generate new and fresh market opportunities, thereby fostering more employment opportunities.

Some studies focus on sustainability in Agriculture. If agriculture is made sustainable, a similar transformation will occur throughout the economy, and its impact depends on the sustainability path that is chosen. A green task is one that directly contributes to environmental sustainability or decrease Green House gas emissions.

A green task is one that directly contributes to environmental sustainability or decrease Green House gas emissions. This would make the green transition more inclusive through more women entering green jobs, and the effectiveness of green policies could also be enhanced through this.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(clair g. m., 2012) found that green industries are substituting traditional industries, and they call traditional industries brown industries because green industries support a labour-intensive economy concluded that the green economy is employed in South Africa. Gagliardi et al. (2014) found a significant relationship between environmental technological changes and employment growth.

The green economy is responsible for both job creation in some sectors and also job-destruction in some sectors, but the overall impact is positive. Boromisa et al. (2015). Research in green jobs has increased considerably (puica, 2022). The current way of using resources is not sustainable, so a transition to a green economy is needed.

(tipoe, 2018) Found that the green economy can create many job opportunities, and it is not difficult to move to a green job from a non-green job because it only requires short-term training and some practical experience.

But Ge et al. (2016) found that the green economy has both a positive impact on employment and also hurts certain nations, but overall, the green economy has a positive impact on employment. Some programmes are promoting sustainable full employment to improve the situation of household sectors and to increase the efficiency in energy (godin, 2012).

According to (ree, 2019) Jobs can be green when they contribute to more environmentally friendly processes. adanma et al. (2024) found that renewable energy presents various job opportunities and energy-price stabilisation. Measures like green jobs and development of the green economy can reduce the disparities in the labour market, but they must be a part of intelligent specialisation, which includes responsible and sustainable development (Sulich et al., 2020).

Research Objectives

The paper aims to address youth unemployment by exploring new emerging sectors in the economy. Now-a-days a new emerging sectors are employment in green sectors. Apart from traditional sectors, green sectors are generating many employment opportunities for young workers.

Renewable Energy Transition and Economic Growth

The demand for renewable energy in modern society is more and more viewed as a key to sustainable development and climate change mitigation adanma et al., 2024). The modern electricity market is changing under the influence of technological innovation, and society is on the way to sustainable development. Renewable sources of energy are not only a way to sustainable development but also have significant economic potential. The adoption of renewable energy technologies such as solar photovoltaic, wind hydropower, and bioenergy is projected to create significant job opportunities, adanma, loc. Cit. Many countries are increasing the use of renewable energy to satisfy their energy needs as well as to protect the environment. The transition supports sustainable development and creates new job opportunities, which further decrease unemployment among people and increase income levels. This may foster economic growth.

Labour Market Transformation Through Green Economy

A shift to a green economy generates entirely new jobs that did not exist previously or were very limited in scope. Nowadays, job growth can be seen in waste management, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, renewable energy, water-conservation specialists, solar-wind energy technicians, environmental researchers, vehicle manufacturing workers, etc. Many existing jobs are becoming green as workers adopt environmentally sustainable practices and technological innovations, with green jobs evident from two perspectives – as final outputs or as production processes. From an output perspective, they produce goods and services that are beneficial to the environment (ree k. v., 2019).

Employers are increasingly looking for workers with sustainability-related competencies. The creation and growth of new green jobs in the context of a green economy require adjustments to the labour market and the introduction of new education programs in the education system through which young people will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills (Jeknic et al., 2022). The potential for green job development for young people in more developed societies is high.

Sectors generating Green Employment

The transition to a green economy can generate employment and have positive effects on employment through the creation of new jobs and the transformation of existing ones, but it needs to be properly managed in terms of structural changes and skills upgrading (strietska et al., 2011).

The renewable energy industry is one of the largest sources of green jobs globally. The World is moving towards low-carbon economies where there has been substantial growth and investment in renewable energy projects that create jobs in manufacturing, installation, operation, maintenance, research and project management. Waste-recycling and forestry also emerge as job-rich sectors as their collection, reuse, recovery, and ecological system management are labour-demanding. Sustainable agriculture is presented as a source of green jobs, particularly in developing countries.

Harnessing the job-creation potential of the greening of our economy results in essential policy actions like ensuring the skills necessary in emerging green sectors are anticipated and developed, and maintaining employment preservation in traditional industries. Substantial agriculture continues to be one of the most important sources of employment generation in developing countries. Sustainable agriculture aims to increase the productivity of agriculture while conserving natural resources. Also, it highlights environmentally friendly farming practices that reduce chemical inputs and enhance long-term farm sustainability.

Employment growth in Renewable Energy

Sectors	Job creation(million)
Liquid biofuel	2.5
Hydropower	2.5
Wind	1.4
Solar photovoltaic	4.9
Solid biomass	7.7
Biogas	3.0
Solar heating/cooling	7.1
Heat pumps	2.4
Geothermal energy	1.5
Others	1.4
Municipal waste	2.7
Concentrated Solar Power	8.0

According to the ILO Annual Report (2023) on renewable energy and jobs, several countries have recognised the need for an energy transition and are seizing this unique opportunity to rebuild social structure by generating jobs and income. Renewable energy investment creates jobs in equipment manufacturing installations, operation and maintenance, while energy efficiency programmes for buildings, transportation and industries create jobs in areas such as energy auditing, retrofitting and manufacturing of energy-efficient technologies.

Green manufacturing means using cleaner technologies for production and more sustainable industrial practices to reduce waste, emissions, and resource use.

CONCLUSION

The transition of economies to a green economy represents a key opportunity to address the challenge of youth unemployment, along with protection against environmental degradation. Youth generally focus on traditional sectors for jobs, but green jobs can open more career scope and generate more decent and sustainable work across different sectors. For any country, investment in environmental projects can be beneficial in multiple ways. Its benefit can be detected if a country's education and vocational training are aligned with market demand, and its implementation requires well-planned policies and proper coordination between industries and the government. Overall, Green - employment cannot just be seen as an environmental initiative but as a long-term development strategy with a special focus on economic and employment growth.

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