

An Analytical Review of Educated Unemployed Youth Unemployment in Senapati Town, Manipur

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Abstract

This study aims to reveal the current status of educated unemployed youth in Senapati town, the capital of Senapati District, Manipur. A descriptive survey method was used to collect the data. The sample consisted of 65 educated unemployed youth from Senapati town. The tool for the study used a self-constructed questionnaire containing 68 test items and the data obtained was analyzed into percentages. The results of the findings show significantly higher percentages of male educated unemployed youth and graduates belonging to Arts discipline. The findings also revealed that majority of educated unemployed youth experience deep unhappiness in their day to day lives and at the same developed negative attitude towards government jobs.

Keywords: educated; unemployed; causes; consequences; aspirations

INTRODUCTION

The problem of unemployment is plaguing many societies and nations across the globe especially in the developing countries like India. Unemployment can be briefly defined as a state of being without gainful work. It is considered as an involuntary failure to get income yielding work. It is recognised as one most significant sociological problem in the society. Rudolf Gyan D. Mellow (1969) defined unemployment as "a condition in which an individual is not in a state of remunerative occupation despite his desire to do so". Harris and Levenly (1975) defined unemployment "as a condition of one who is able to work but unable to find it". Therefore, an unemployed person can be understood as one who has potential and willingness to earn or work, but is unable to find remunerative work. Unemployment has three underlying components: 1. The person should be capable of working; 2. The person should be willing to do work; and 3. The person must make a conscious effort to find remunerative work. It is a major source of hardship, deprivation and suffering to many people affecting the individual and the society in many different ways. According to Amartya Sen (1975) referred the income aspect: 1. Employment gives an income to the employed; 2. The production aspects: employment yields an output; and 3. The recognition aspects: employment gives a person the recognition of being engaged in something.

Youth is a stage of human life, a transient population between childhood and adulthood. We cannot define exactly in clear terms and it is difficult to demarcate the lower and upper age limits for youth. The United Nations recognises the age between 15-24 as "youth" which is adopted in many western countries. Whereas, in India generally the age between 15- 34 is recognised as "youth" (Saraswathi, 1988). The

period of youth stands for growth, development, action and leadership. They mature quickly in an atmosphere where there is freedom, activity, recognition and opportunity.

The employment situation in Manipur is also a matter of great concern, with most of it being a rural phenomenon. According to the Economic survey 2020-21, Manipur has a population estimated at 30 lakhs. With a population of over 3 lakh, Senapati district has educated unemployed over 52,000 till February 2021. It is assumed that the actual figures will be higher because most rural youths don't get themselves registered with the employment exchange.

The high rate of unemployment, particularly among the educated youth, is due to the lack of an industrial base, the absence of private enterprises, and limited employment opportunities in the government sector. The state government is the main employer but there has been very limited recruitment in the past many years.

Life in the hills is tough in terms of development compared with the valley but lack of avenues, especially jobs for the educated, is the main problem here, more so after the pandemic when most people who were working outside the state had returned home. The unemployment scene is alarming.

According to a survey carried out in Manipur, about 78 of the respondents felt that the youth are join militant groups because of coercion/compulsion and not for ideology. Similarly, 87 per cent of the respondents felt that educated unemployment is the key reason behind the insurgency in the state. Thus, there is an urgent need to be addressed the root cause of unemployment or many of these youth are likely, to take up arms which is sustaining insurgency in Manipur and also in other parts of Northeast India.

Unemployment is a severe issue for the state of Manipur as a whole and even more so for the hill districts like Senapati.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Association of Indian Universities (1991) conducted a study on '*Graduate Unemployment in India*' to find out the incidence, nature and consequences of the problem of graduate unemployment in India. Some important findings of the study are (a) The magnitude of unemployment is an ever-rising phenomena. The malaise is more rampant among the arts graduates, (b) The major cause of unemployment, as perceived by the respondents of the study are: over-population, insufficient economic development and poor planning, (c) Wage employment is the most attractive form of employment, and (d) The main lacuna in the schemes of employment generation launched by the government is the lack of proper implementation, red-tapism, complicated regulation, delays in release of loans etc. Swedish sociologists Carle and Schale conducted a study and found that youth unemployment has destructive effect and that such a new attitude towards works does not exist. Recent studies by Iversen and Sabroe; Kiesselbach and Svensson; Rani; L.B.Singh; Kumari; and Winfield and Tiggermann have indicated that unemployment affects a man not only physically and psychologically, but also causes a sharp decline in him of human values. Young people without jobs tend to be those with fewest academic qualifications, and they tend to come from families of manual workers in which other people are also unemployed (Holland and Raffe). Studies by Donovan and Oddy, and Hepworth shows that the unemployed have poor subjective well-being and inadequate social adjustment. Unemployment constitutes a threat to the welfare of the society (Hedborg and Meidner, and Andersen et.al). (Roland K. Kikon, 2015) studied on the causes and problems of unemployment among the educated youths in Wokha Town. The most important reasons of unemployment are the absence of industries to absorb the potential human resource. The unemployment among the educated youth can have negative repercussion on the individual and the society in general. Industrialization, encouragement to

self-employment or entrepreneurship and development of skill can be the key measures to solving problems of educated unemployed youths.

(Zeng, 2012) explores the impact of unemployment on young people's social relationships. Unemployment diminishes their social contacts and results in their social networks being characterised by strong peer ties but emerging segregation from society. The social policy for unemployed youth should aim at helping them build social networks and counter social relationship exclusion.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine the causes of unemployment educated unemployed youth
2. To analyse the problems faced by the educated unemployed youth, and the social consequences of youth unemployment
3. To examine the aspirations of the educated youth.

METHODOLOGY

Sample: The sample for the present study consisted of 65 Educated Unemployed Youth of Senapati town.
Tool: In the present study of educated unemployed youth, a self-constructed questionnaire with 65 items was used to collect information.

Table 1: Causes of Unemployment

| Statements | Response (Yes %) | Responses (No%) |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Aware of advertisements appear in the newspaper | 76.9 | 23.1 |
| Aware of the exclusive websites for employment | 33.8 | 66.2 |
| Registered in the employment exchanges | 44.6 | 55.4 |
| Government doing enough to create job avenues | 18.5 | 81.5 |
| Job-related information is well disseminated by concerned government agencies | 33.8 | 66.2 |
| Aware of any government schemes for educated unemployed youth | 20.0 | 80.0 |
| Interested in applying for government jobs | 12.3 | 87.7 |

Figure 1.1:

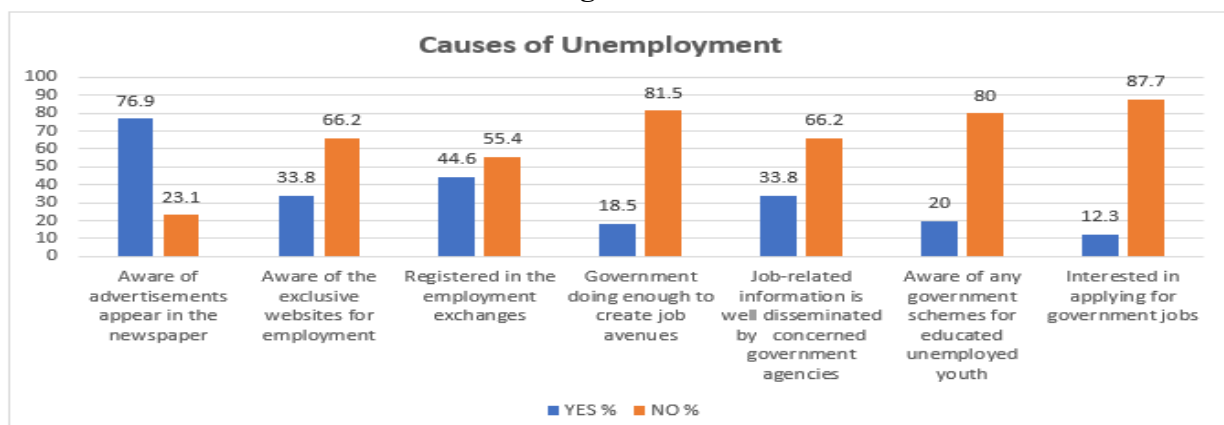
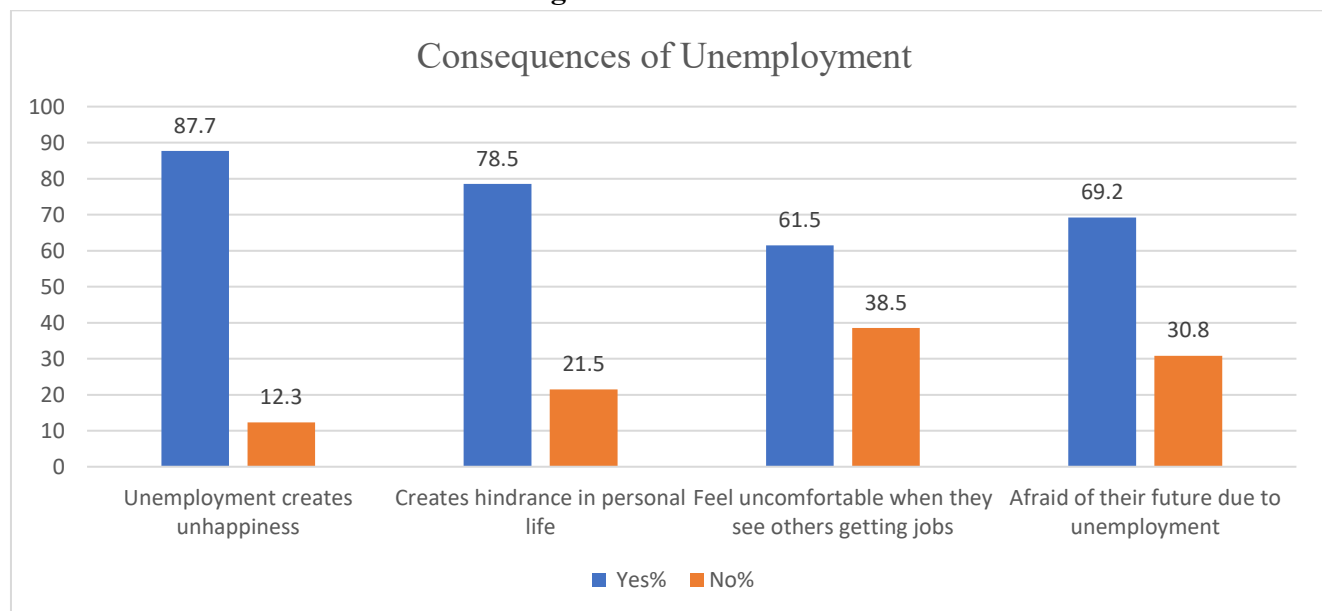


Table 1 and Figure 1.1. shows educated unemployed youth (76.90%) are aware of the advertisements in the newspaper whereas (23.10%) say that they are not aware of it. (66.20%) say that they are not aware of the websites for employment and 33.80% say that they are aware. (44.6%) out of the total of 65 have registered themselves in various Employment Exchanges whereas (55.4%) have not registered themselves in Employment Exchanges. The number of registered EUYs in employment exchanges is low as they do not see much scope in getting job in the near future. (18.5%) say that government is doing enough to create job avenues for educated unemployed youths while (81.5%) feel that the government is not doing enough for employment of educated unemployed youth. (33.8%) are of the opinion that the information related to job opportunities/openings well disseminated by concerned government agencies but (66.2%) expressed otherwise. (80.0%) are not aware of government schemes and the vast majority (87.7%) of the EUYs are not interested to apply for job.

Table 2: Consequences of Unemployment

| Statements | Responses (Yes%) | Responses (No%) |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Unemployment creates unhappiness | 87.7 | 12.3 |
| Creates hindrance in personal life | 78.5 | 21.5 |
| Feel uncomfortable when they see others getting jobs | 61.5 | 38.5 |
| Afraid of their future due to unemployment | 69.2 | 30.8 |

Figure 2.1.



From table 2 and Figure 2.1., it was observed that (87.7%) of educated unemployed youth expressed that unemployment creates unhappiness in their lives and (78.5%) it creates hindrances in their day-to-day personal life. Educated unemployed youths (61.5%) feel uncomfortable whenever they see other friends getting jobs and (69.2%) expressed fear about their future due to their unemployment status.

| Preferences | Responses (Yes%) | Responses (No%) |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Self-Employment | 76.90 | 23.10 |
| Skill Based | 75.40 | 24.60 |
| Willing to do job outside the state | 73.8 | 26.20 |
| Willing to accept the lower grade job | 46.20 | 53.80 |
| Willing to do manual labour | 47.70 | 52.00 |
| Willing to invest in training for the job | 73.80 | 26.20 |

Table 3: Job Aspirations

Figure 3.1.

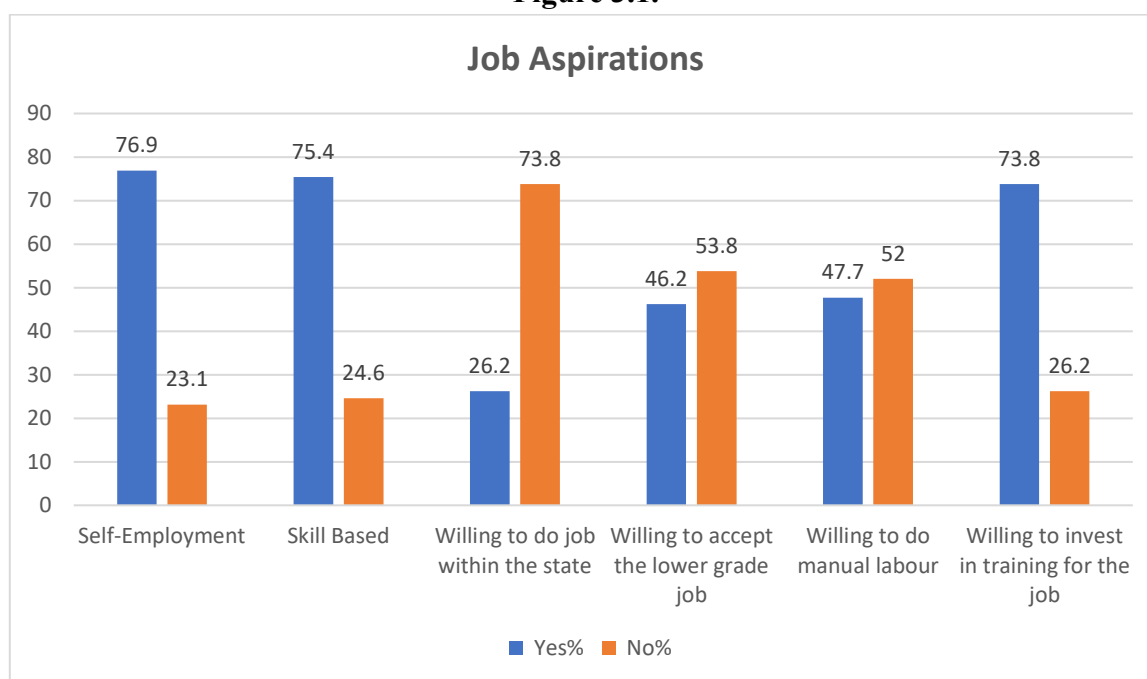


Table 4.3 indicates the aspirations of the educated employed youths with (76.9 %) wanted to do business and management, (75.4%) preferred skill- based training and (73.8%) preferred to work outside their state, (46.2%) are willing to accept lower paid jobs, (47.7%) only are willing to do manual The majority of (73.8%) are willing to invest in the training for the job that they are interested.

Major Findings of the Study

The distribution of educated unemployed youth based on gender shows that (58.5%) of the youths are male and (41.5%) are female. The distribution of educated unemployed youth based on Stream of study indicates (75.4%) belongs to Arts, (16.9%) and (7.7%). belong to Sciences and Commerce streams respectively. Age-wise distribution shows (53.8%) from age group 21-25 years, (33.8%) from 26-30 years and (12.4%) belong to 31-35 years. Qualification-Wise shows (53.8%) belong to graduates, (20%) postgraduates and (26.2%) below graduates.

Results and Discussion

Gender-wise analysis shows that male educated unemployed youths are more as compared to their female

counterparts. The study shows that females are likely to take up any form of jobs more easily with less fuss and hence unemployment problem is lesser among female compared to male.

The educated youth on average are aware of job advertisements in the newspaper and websites for employment. The study also further revealed that majority of the educated youths were demotivated to apply for government jobs because of unfair recruitment system. Thus, it can be clearly understood that the young educated youth are discouraged and have lost interest in seeking government jobs due to ill practices such as corruption and constant manipulation by politicians and bureaucrats which have aggravated the situation of unemployment.

The scarcity of job avenues in the public sector have also changed the attitudes of the youth towards white collar jobs. Hence, the present-day youths preferred to get training in skill-based vocations and aspire to build careers in entrepreneurship.

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