

## AN ANALYSIS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

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Raju Thomas\*

### ABSTRACT

*With higher education, skill training and support, individuals can regain their dignity and work towards self-employment for becoming active members of the national economy. Students, as an essential part of the future work force, have to deal with an increasingly complex and uncertain world due to profound economic, social and technical structural change. It is important to encourage students to think and act entrepreneurially as well as ethically and socially responsible citizens. Indian youth should acquire the entrepreneurial skills to contribute towards making India a modern country by creating jobs. Our youth must be in a position to face their counterparts in any corner of the world by virtue of their dedication and hard work to win the hearts of people around the world through the entrepreneurial skill. Here, in this paper, an attempt is made to find the historical and present situation of the inter relatedness in Indian Education and unemployment for the economic and social wellbeing from the Indian perspective to reveal everything you need to know about present higher education system and its capacity in providing employment opportunity.*

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Skill, Employment, Economy.

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### Introduction

Education in its broader sense is the means through which the habits of a group of people continue on from one generation to the next. It can occur through any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts. In its narrow sense, education is the formal process by which societies transmit their accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another. Since independence the nation builders have always underlined the role of Education as the key catalyst for promoting socio-economic mobility in building an equitable and just society. The draft document of the National Policy on Education (April 2016), recognizes Education as the most important vehicle for social, political and economic and transformation. It reiterates the role of education in “inculcating values, and to provide skills and competencies for the citizens, and in enabling them to contribute to the nation’s well-being; strengthens democracy by empowering citizens; acts as an integrative force in society, and fosters social cohesion and national identity” (Draft NEP, p 1). Today’s Education system is cut off from the realities and practical problems of life. Students study very hard to obtain a degree. It is unfortunate that these degrees do not provide them suitable jobs. Unemployment or joblessness means a person in the state of being without any opportunity of earning one’s livelihood. It is a condition when the workforce is not able to secure a paying job. It is a case of young people who are physically fit and mentally competent. On the completion of their education or training, they do not find any job to earn a living. It is the responsibility of the State to provide work to its people. But the number of the unemployed persons in

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\* Assistant Professor and HOD, Department of Applied Business Economics, St. John’s College, Agra, U.P., India.

India is increasing at an alarming rate. More than 1/3 of the total population still lives below the poverty line. When there is slowdown in economy, there is a surge in the number of educated unemployed people. One of the many causes for the unemployment among educated men and women is the lack of Entrepreneurial qualities in the educated mass. Entrepreneurial attitude would make them self-employed. There are many professions and occupations where they can earn for themselves. Even if their reward is not very high in the beginning, they need to wait for some time to get higher earnings.

### **Hypothesis**

Our education system is not suitable for the 21st century. There is a mismatch between jobs and skills. Governments' help in re- shaping the education & skills sector lies in building entrepreneurship mindset in the Indian youth.

### **Methodology**

Secondary source materials like articles in newspapers and popular magazines, books and movie reviews, and articles found in scholarly journals that discuss and/or evaluate someone else's original research and important websites have been studied extensively and duly acknowledged as Empirical evidence and information to justify the truth or falsity of a claim.

### **Evolution of Higher Education in India**

Education tries to develop three aspects: physique, mentality and character. The failure in academic learning is closely linked to the failure to nurture values and sensitivity to others and nature. Historical evidences show that Indian higher education flourished at Nalanda, Takshshila, Ujjain, & Vikramshila Universities around the first millennium. Universities at Delhi, Lucknow and Allahabad were established around 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Muslim rulers. The English introduced modern schooling and higher education. The missionaries started Bombay Wilson College, Madras Christian College and St. John's College at Agra. The missionaries, often working with local philanthropists, opened 186 universities and colleges of higher education by 1911.

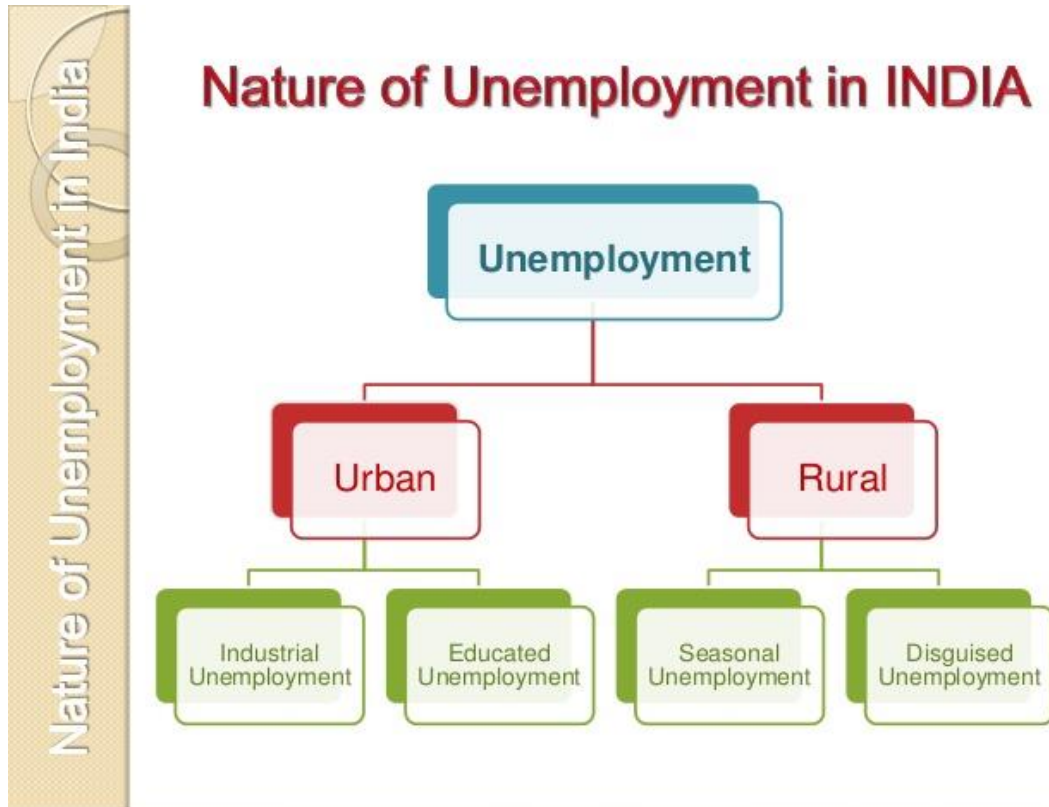
After independence, states took over the responsibility of the education. Co-ordination in technical and higher education and specifying standards was the only obligations of the Central Government until 1976, when the education became a joint responsibility of the state and the Centre. Most universities in India are under the control of the Union or the State Governments. Various articles of the Indian Constitution provide for education as a fundamental right. Much of the progress especially in Higher education, Scientific research has been credited to various public institutions. However, India continues to face stern challenges.

### **Significance of Higher Education**

The Higher Education system comprises of undergraduate, post graduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. level courses. It is important as it prepares individuals with knowledge and skills which are needed for development of all sectors of economy. It supplies skilled and trained man power which is demanded by all sectors of national economy. The supply must match the demand. Therefore, matter of quality is a great concern for all of us as effectiveness and efficiency of the system will depend on quality of the system. On the other hand, absence of highly trained and skilled human power will lead to wastage of all resources. If our human resource is not properly trained for use of modern technology, they would not be of much use for their employers. Hence, there will be wastage of Human resources in terms of energy they put in and amount of money which is spent on them. In the mad race to increase rate of higher education, the state did produce greater number of output from the institutions of higher learning. Thus, not only colleges and universities increased in number but also produced very large number of highly educated human power. At the same time, various sections of economy fail to employ them in sufficient number and hence the situation of unemployment.

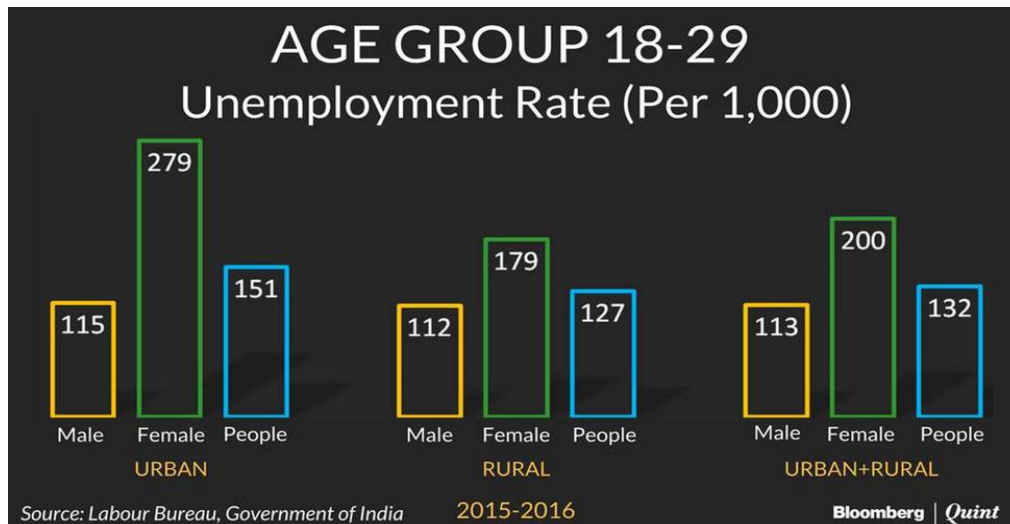
### **Unemployment**

Work is a measure of societal status from the days of the early civilization, besides being the basis of our survival. But the societal stratification has erred in the past decade and the plight of Indian unemployment is a categorical example of it. The current demography of India, with its young population, would be a bliss for many nations including the developed. India is one of the youngest nations in the world with more than 62% of its population in the working age group (15-59 years), and more than 54% of its total population below 25 years of age. Its population pyramid is expected to "bulge" across the 15-59 age group over the next decade.



Any blessing, if carelessly dealt with, will lead to catastrophe. This catastrophe can be more clearly pictured by imagining 23 lakh candidates with mixed educational backgrounds, from primary school educated people, to postgraduates standing in a long queue in front of a kiosk offering the job of a peon. Assuming each person occupies a linear space of 30 cm, a 690 km long queue will be formed. This is what precisely happened in Uttar Pradesh in the second week of September 2015, when 23 lakh candidates applied for just 368 vacancies, for the post of a peon in the government secretariat. This incident highlighted the graveness of the unemployment scenario of India in a nutshell, as the applicants included 250 doctorates, 25,000 Postgraduates, 1.5 lakh graduates, 7.5 lakh Higher secondary school pass outs and 11.2 lakh class 10 or equivalent pass outs, for a job which required only a qualification of a class 5 student and cycling skill. If, similarly, the whole percentage (4.9 %) of unemployed youth between the age of 18-29 in the total population of India, amounting to about 6 Crore, is made to stand in a queue, it will be a jaw-dropping 18,000 km long, greater than the entire frontier of India (which is only 15,200 km). This is equal to the entire population of Italy which is the 23rd country in the UN by population.

A statistical bird's eye view of the same can be pictured from the Annual Employment and Unemployment Survey Report, 2013-14, conducted by the Labour Bureau. Unemployment ratio for the age group of 18-29 years is 12.9%, while for above 30 years it is 1.4%, which points out that there are very few opportunities for fresh entrants. Unemployment among those with degrees is 28%, while for below primary and pre-primary literates in the age group of 18-29 years, it is 4%. Among graduates it is 14%, postgraduates; it is 12%, while for illiterates it is 2%. Thus, the normal notion that higher the education, higher the employment chance, is under folly. A strong reason for the same can be attributed to the survey findings by NDTV and The Hindu that stated that around 50% of Indian graduates are unemployable. The foremost step to counter the same should be to formulate precise, authentic information on employment and related data. This should include at least a 5-year medium-term future forecast of employment and its characteristics with greater emphasis on the forthcoming years. This can be achieved by coordination of various agencies involved in data assimilation, like NSSO, CSO, Labour bureau etc.



The best solution to the problem of unemployment can be deciphered from the same Labour Bureau Report, 2013-14. The majority of employed in India are self-employed (42%), while 35% are casual labourers and only 23% are salaried employees among the age group of 18-29 years. Thus, in new innovative start-ups and ventures lies the future of India. A hard push given to the low labour intensive service sector must be repeated with greater force to the MSME's and agri-related business where 'Amul' like magic by visionaries like Dr. Varghese Kurien can be repeated across the nation.

#### Conclusion

One cannot deny the importance that the higher education plays at all level of a nation's economy. Our ultimate goal should be improvement of quality of life of the national economy because more quantitative expansions cannot ensure long term development in a real sense. We must make hard to transform our dream of being a "Super Power Economy" and to bring quantitative improvement in a positive direction. At the same time, we have to make sincere efforts to increase employment among our educated youth because if they remain unemployed for a longer time, our dream of development will not be achieved in a real sense. Unemployment is a real problem among the educated youth of India, should be given a serious consideration by the states, as the youth of today is to be pillar of our nation in the future. If the rising generation is demoralized and degenerated; if its spirit and fervor are chilled under the impact of unemployment, our country will not be able to make any substantial advances in future. Educated unemployment is the very critical situation in India because many of the educated people are not getting the job as per their eligibility. Unemployment and poverty go side by side. The problem of unemployment gives rise to the problem of poverty. Young people after a long time of unemployment find the wrong way to earn money. The government on its part should facilitate the smooth and swift shift to such sections of unemployed youth. We must start giving a better social position to the entrepreneurs who are job creators than job seekers, which itself is a bit adventurous, a change in trend from the recent past where a safe salaried job was highly sought after.

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