

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*The aim of education is to make an individual and the society better is missing in its current form. In our haste to get everybody educated, we somewhere forget to consider the importance of the education. The wide spreading unemployment is the result of passion among the educated youth for 'white collar jobs'. Insufficient awareness and lack of vocational guidance are some of the other key factors which enhanced the unemployment. Very tough struggle for survival is going on in the world to find a suitable employment after finishing the higher education. To earn handsome remuneration has become the sole motive for most of the youth while choosing a profession. This lust is the basic cause for their failure in life. They don't prefer a career suitable either to their capability or the aptitude. The outcome is the increasing criminal activists and activities for quick money. Therefore it is essential to provide young men and women with educational as well as vocational guidance. This in turn will help them, to choose a profession suitable to their capability and aptitude. Thus, the problem of unemployment will also get solved.*

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Unemployment, Youth, White Collar Jobs, Quick Money.

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### Introduction

The Indian Higher Education has travelled a long journey. Today, there are more than 100 Universities of different kinds and a huge number of colleges. Higher education has reached to all corners and concerns of our country and it has even knocked to lowest step of the society. The Technical higher education and many more professional courses has touched the heights of excellence and enlightened the lives of men and women equally. In ancient times, we had renowned Universities like Takshshila, Vallabhi and Nalanda but today every state has many universities controlled by central government or State governments. There is also a remarkable number of private Universities and of "Universities Deemed to be", dependent upon the huge fee of the students.

Indian educated Youth is facing serious issues like educated unemployment and under employment. The imbalance between the aspirations of graduates and employment opportunities available to them is the main reason behind the educated unemployment. Unemployment is the state of being unemployed or not having a job. A person is said to be unemployed if he or she is unable to find the job in spite of the work-search or is ready to work at the prevailing wage. Some of the important reasons for unemployment among educated Indian youth are job shortage, un-availability of suitable jobs and responsibilities of the family. The unavailability of suitable job is more among urban youth (48%) than rural (46%). It is pathetic and painful to see a long queue of young educated people, who have devoted ten to sixteen precious years of their lives to their studies standing in front of the employment exchange office. It is very shocking and surprising that the years spent in getting educated

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proved just wastage of time and converted them to idle gossipers, fobic to physical labor and demander of comfort. In India approximately 134 million literate youth is employed; out of which 58% are satisfied with their job profile while other 38% are dissatisfied. The prickly reasons for dissatisfaction found were the unsecured job, low salary, inappropriate office environment, and failure to get a desired job.

#### Literature Review

**Barnett, R. (1992).** Improving Higher Education: Total Quality Core, Buckingham: SRHE&OU.

**Srikanthan and Dalrymple** stated that quality maintenance in higher education must satisfy the expectations from the perspectives of different stakeholders

**Agarwal, P. (2006).** "Higher Education in India: The Need for Change." ICRIER Working Paper, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations: No. 180.

**Ritu and Nareshkumar (2013)** conducted a research on trend and pattern of unemployment and inflation in India. The Indian economy is the second largest economy in the world; meanwhile the growth of Indian economy is not up to the mark. For this lot of reasons were pointed out like, inflation, poverty, unemployment, fiscal deficit, account deficit and depreciation of Indian Currency.

**Arnab Roy (2015)** carried out a research on youth unemployment conditions in India. The India is a fastest economic growing country in world. However, the growths of youngsters' population were occurred unemployment. The unemployment is a common problem for both developed and developing countries. The education standard and percentage has increased but the skill development has not been developed as per expectations.

#### Importance of Higher Education

India having second largest population holds the third largest higher education system in the world by the volume of students enrolled. Government of India under Ministry of Human Resource development (MHRD) under the Department of Higher Education frames the policies related to higher education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) a statutory body established in 1956 through Parliament is responsible for co-ordination, evaluation and maintaining standards of higher education in India. UGC providing funds through MHRD is responsible for the establishment of central universities across India and for recognizing Deemed to be Universities run by private funded trusts and Universities established by the 28 Federal State governments across India. UGC has established statutory Councils to provide and promote grants, set competent standards and to spread professional education in different areas of the nation. In the India, higher (tertiary) education starts after the 10+2 (i.e. ten years of primary and secondary education flowered by two years of senior secondary education). The Indian higher education Framework is very complex. It includes various educational institutions like universities, colleges, institutes of national importance, polytechnics etc. Universities can be also classified like central universities, formed by government of India, by an act of parliament which are responsible for arranging and distributing resources required by university grant commission (UGC), State universities, Deemed universities (aided and unaided) has a federal set-up and the Indian constitution places education as a concurrent responsibility of both the centre and state. While the Central Government is responsible to co-ordinates and fix standards in higher and technical education, school education is under the responsibility of state. Under the department of higher education there are many regulatory bodies and research councils who are responsible for the quality management and impartment of higher education in India.

#### Unemployment: Major Setback for Educated Youth

Education For All", is a policy which is lighting the lamp of education in every part of the country, however due to increasing literacy rate, limited resources and job opportunities, these lamps are burning the lives of educated youth. They've wasted huge amount to get a college degree but these investments are not paying off as it has proven incapable of providing them an "Employed" Tag and a desired job to feed their stomach. Depression, frustration, anxiety, stress, is the commonly found disorders of an educated unemployed. They are filled up with the rage against the society that has inculcated a low self-esteem and an ideology like they are not among the productive members of the family and society. As a reaction against the system they indulge in illegal and unethical earning of money like robbery, chain snatching, rapes, violence, kidnapping, and murders etc. Researches and the data state that due to the higher rate of educated employment, criminal activities are also increasing day by day. Terrorism, drug trafficking, anti-social groups are the other hazardous outcomes of educated unemployment. According to the BOCSAR (New Bureau of Crime Statistics and

Research), 2012, "Unemployment causes higher property and violent crime rates". To overcome the stress of life they are using alcohol, drugs etc. as their friend. And when the stress level shoots up incredibly, they commit suicide. According to a national level survey conducted by Registrar General of India, 2010, "40% of suicide deaths in men (45100 of 114800) and 56% of suicide deaths in women (40500 of 72100) occurred at ages 15-29 years". This data reveals that educated unemployment is a curse for the Indian economy.

### **Causes for Low Rate of Employment**

It is a fact that in India, jobs are lowly paid. Most of the educated youth is either underemployed or unemployed. We need to understand various causes for this situation.

- **Outdated Curriculum**

It is a sad state of affair that curriculum at all levels- especially in higher education is outdated. We are still following that age old curriculum. In other words, our curriculum is unable to coop with the changing world. We must regularly update our curriculum since failure in this regard will lead to a situation where we cannot provide employment to those who would pass out from institutions of higher learning. Therefore, we need to include all those inputs in curriculum, so they will keep pace with changes of modern times. Transaction of revised curriculum in our classrooms will make it easier for our products to get proper employment.

- **Lack of Proper Skill Development in Higher Education**

Our education system is not only traditional and obsolete but also we provide theoretical education. We have failed to equip our outputs with such skills which are desirable in the job markets. We must make our education system more practice based since such education would prepare our youth to earn or to get reward from whatever they put in. They do invest time, money and physical as well as mental labor and if they are not getting the desirable return out of their investment, it is an alarming situation for the nation.

- **Lack of Enterprising Attitude among Young People**

Those who pass out from various institutions- be from any discipline, they would look for a job where they would be employed by others. But they lack an enterprising attitude which would make them self employed. There are many professions and occupations where they can earn for themselves. They can be their own employers. There are many virgin fields which needs exploration. Of course, that will demand more time but they have to be patient for earning. When they earn by their own efforts, they would get lot of freedom/autonomy to work. They can evolve their own set of rules than following someone's rules. Even if their reward is not very high in the beginning, they need to wait for some time to get higher earnings.

- **Absence of Required Enthusiasm for Vocational Learning**

This is in reference to what Ghandi Ji said centuries ago. He said that education will help the youth in two ways first by making them earning people and secondly will make them to respect the labour. The youth would give equal value to all jobs because that job would help them to earn something (Beneficial at micro level) and to the society, at large (Beneficial at macro level). Therefore, the problem of the prevailing unemployment will be solved. Educated youth would not be trapped by concept of so called "social status" linked to some status holding jobs.

### **Solutions to Reduce Unemployment Rate**

Collective efforts by the Government as well as citizens towards the following points might help alleviating the problem of unemployment in the country.

- **Increased Industrialization:** One of the most certain remedies of the unemployment condition in India is rapid industrialization. Increased number of industries may transform unemployment effectively into increased number of employment opportunities. Due to the agro-based economy, industrialization still takes a backseat, as farmers are not ready to give their lands for the industries. They must be encouraged with better incentives and assurance of guaranteed job for a member of the family in the newly established industry.
- **More emphasis on Vocational and Technical Training:** The curriculum of the universities should be altered to focus more on practical aspects of learning. Establishment of more institutions offering vocational courses should be initiated.

- **Encouraging Self-employment:** Self-employment should be encouraged with the support of liability free loans and government assistance for funding. Incubation centers must be promoted to cultivate original business ideas which are financially viable.
- **Focused Policy Implementation:** almost every policy has focused on poverty and unemployment, but the implementation leaves a lot to be desired. Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Rajiv Gandhi Swavlamban Rozgar Yojna are examples of the initiatives which the government has undertaken to address the problem of unemployment." Make in India" is yet another initiative that has heart in the right place. The government should ensure its implementation strategies so that the benefit from such schemes may be maximized.

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