

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND YOUTH UN-EMPLOYMENT IN BIHAR: NEED FOR POLICY INTERVENTIONS

Rina Kumari*
Prof. Premanand**

ABSTRACT

Research Purpose: The said research paper emphasizes on properly designed and well implemented entrepreneurship education as the solution to youth unemployment problem in Bihar. Although many research has been done on entrepreneurship educations and youth unemployment on country level but there is no highlight on nations entrepreneurship education system.

Hence the purpose of this study is to highlight the importance of implanting the entrepreneurship study throughout the education curriculum and need for Bihar government intervention through its policies and schemes.

Research Methodology: A comprehensive review of the literature is carried out in order to identify the key drivers supporting entrepreneurship education as the solution to youth unemployment problem.

Research Findings: In order to address Bihar's youth unemployment issues, this study aims to understand the value of entrepreneurship education. According to the study's findings, entrepreneurial education may help address the issue of adolescent unemployment in the community.

We find that the youth unemployment rate in Bihar decreased from 17.8% (2017-2018) to 10% (2022-2023) (Labour_and_Employment_Statistics_2022_2com, n.d.) indicating that employment opportunities has been improved for individuals aged between 15-19.

Research Limitations: This study is limited to the state Bihar only and also this study recognizes the limitations of relying on a synthesis of existing literature.

Future research should consider empirical validation as well as additional factors supporting the said research purpose.

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Education, Unemployment, Youth Unemployment.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is the capacity and willingness to create, plan, and manage a business venture, with all of its risks, with the goal of turning a profit. Starting a new company is the most well-known example of entrepreneurship. And an entrepreneur is a person who possesses the skills and motivation to launch, manage, and earn profit from a startup business while taking on the necessary risk.

A growing number of aspirational people looking to launch their own companies and open up new prospects for themselves have made entrepreneurship a more and more popular career choice in India in recent years.

* Research Scholar, University Department of Commerce & Management, B.R.A Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India.

** Research Supervisor, University Department of Commerce & Management, B.R.A Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India.

However, the road to entrepreneurship is frequently paved with obstacles, such as restricted financial resources, a dearth of guidance and assistance, and societal perceptions that discourage taking chances and being creative,(Ellikkal et al., 2023) The Indian government has started a number of initiatives to support entrepreneurship education in order to address these issues, ranging from mentorship programs and startup accelerators to classroom-based courses. These programs are intended to give prospective business owners the abilities, information, and assets required to be successful in the cutthroat business world of today.

However, what initiatives Bihar govt has taken and what effect these government initiatives had on Bihar entrepreneurship education? Have they been effective in encouraging an entrepreneurial culture and aiding in the expansion of start-up companies?

This article examines the role of Bihar government policies and schemes in advancing entrepreneurship education, and examining their objectives, tactics, and results as well as the opportunities and challenges they encounter in accomplishing their goals. And also, an attempt has been made to understand how the intervention of Bihar government policies can strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. We also provide suggestions for how these programs might be enhanced to better support entrepreneurship education and advance social and economic development in Bihar.

Entrepreneurship Education- Bihar Government Initiatives

For the progress and expansion of any nation, the important factor which play a lead role is Human capital.And thus, the demand for entrepreneurs increased as entrepreneurs play a critical role in building new business. Therefore, for the Bihar economy it is very important to introduce the concept of innovation, creativity and the entrepreneurship spirit among the youth of Bihar in order to beat the competitiveness. In this relation it is important for the state like Bihar to understand that just the collection of Knowledge and information is not going to bridge the gap between youth unemployment rate. Youth of Bihar should understand that accumulating knowledge and information is not to solve their problem of unemployment until and unless they know how to utilize that knowledge and information. Thus, for the success accumulation of knowledge is not important, the important is the utilization of that knowledge and information in right direction for the right purpose.

In today's modern context, the approach of study should be the combination of pro-active and re-active approach. Thus, the educational systems especially Bihar educational systems should be transformed from rigid rules and framework to flexible and adaptable networks for establishing and taking advantage of an environment that is conducive to the spread of information and knowledge. the youth engaged in the training and development skills must keep in mind that their current business activity must continue to encourage consistent, standardized knowledge, attitudes, and abilities to foster an entrepreneurial spirit among the students (Swedberg, 2000).The environment where learning and working are done at the same time should provide more variety, quiet and isolation for one task, and stimulus for the other. Consider carefully what should be the result of textual information, conference proceedings, and training that is provided. The approach towards knowledge has been changed and this changed approach should be realised and should be adopted by both the government and education system as well as by youth. As the tradition approach of study is all different from the study which is conceived today. The knowledge which is created traditionally is just for the sake of preservation and stored rather then delivered. The youth must understand that gaining knowledge is one process rather than one event. So, education system should be reframed by treating knowledge as a process rather than one event.

Lather and Singh (2018) assert that entrepreneurship education is essential for cultivating the abilities, know-how, and mindset required for success in the contemporary business environment. In India, there are several options for entrepreneurship education, such as startup accelerators, mentorship programs, and classroom-based courses.

While mentorship programs offer advice and assistance from seasoned business owners, classroom-based courses give students the core business planning and management skills they need. Various academics from various eras and places have defined and examined entrepreneurship in different ways (Sexton and Landstorm,2000; Hisrich and Peters, 2002). In 1982, "The Encyclopaedia of Entrepreneurship" was published, marking the first organized approach to entrepreneurship research and instruction.

Bihar Government Programs Supporting Entrepreneurship Education in Bihar

Several initiatives being taken by Bihar government to encourage entrepreneurship education and cultivate an ecosystem for startups. **Bihar Startup policy 2022-2027:**(*Udyog Mitra Bihar - Latest Jobs, Results, Answer Key, Yojana News*, n.d.). Bihar is making rapid development progress because to relentless efforts to support industrial expansion and fortify infrastructure. Enhancing the state's economy's competitiveness and attaining inclusive growth are priorities for the Bihar government. An important factor in economic growth is innovation and startups. This can be accomplished by encouraging creativity and developing an environment that supports new businesses from conception to launch. Start-ups prioritize innovation to develop next-generation solutions that contribute to economic dynamism in addition to producing jobs. In order to establish an autonomous and open ecosystem where the state offers financial assistance, marketing, and policy support, the Bihar government developed and implemented the Bihar Start-up Policy, 2022-2027. For this one trust (Bihar Start-up Fund Trust) BSFT was set-up by the Bihar government and with initial corpus of ₹500 Crore the policy was implemented. Bihar Start-up Policy, 2022 aims to make Bihar the most sought-after location for entrepreneurs and start-ups by utilizing the potential of local youth and creating a supportive startup ecosystem for inclusive growth in the State. Not only this, **Mukhyamantri Nischay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana (MNSSBY)** (*Udyog Mitra Bihar - Latest Jobs, Results, Answer Key, Yojana News*, n.d.) also played a vital role in reducing the Bihar's youth un-employment. Bihar's youth has got major support in the form of MNSSBY from Bihar government. The goal of MNSSBY is to improve employability. By encouraging entrepreneurship, it helps Bihar in developing a sustainable ecosystem for livelihood. Through skill development and financial independence, the Bihar government's Mukhya Mantri Nishchay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana (MNSSBY) aims to empower young people. MNSSBY was introduced with the general goal of improving employability under the auspices of the "Seven Nishchay" (seven resolutions) system. In Bihar, it cultivates an entrepreneurial spirit and builds a sustainable livelihood ecosystem. Here's how MNSSBY significantly contributes to skill development among the youth of Bihar: for skill training financial support is provided to the Bihar youth age between 20-25, with the help of specialised student credit cards (Bihar Student Credit Card Yojana, BSCCY) additional financial support is also provided to Bihar youth in order to support for higher education and skill development in the Bihar, Bihar youth getting access to skill development centres which offer broader range of vocational trainings as per industry needs, collaboration with industry partners and alignment with National Initiatives like "Skill India" and so on.

- **Educational Reforms:**(*ET Education: Education News | Latest Education Sector Information and Updates*, n.d.), In order to improve the state's educational system, the Bihar government has authorized 43 major goals, one of which is encouraging self-employment and entrepreneurship among educated but unemployed young.
- Also, Bihar government made **Collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII):**(*Inspiring Entrepreneurship in Bihar – Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India*, n.d.). In partnership with the Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), EDII launched the Bihar Skill Development Program under the "Kushal Yuva Program (KYP)" to improve the soft skills, IT literacy, and communication abilities of Bihar's youth. The project's goal is to improve the employability skills of all candidates between the ages of 15 and 28 who have completed at least their 10th or 12th grade, left school, and are seeking employment. Through a network of Block Skill Development Centers, this specialized training program is delivered. EDII has established eight well-established centers in Garhpura, Begusarai; Khodabandpur, Begusarai; Mansurchak, Begusarai; Matihani, Begusarai; Samho-Akaha-Kurha, Begusarai; Teghra, Begusarai; Rosera, Samastipur; and Mansi, Khagaria to teach the young people of Bihar soft skills, IT literacy, and communication.

For young people in Bihar, these above stated initiatives being taken by the Bihar Government is a ray of hope, providing them with the resources and chances to create a better future.

Youth Unemployment

In India, the periodic labor force survey classified those aged 15–29 as "youth," and those older than this age group may be considered "adults." According to ILO definitions, "youth" refers to those aged 15–24, while "adults" refers to those aged 25 and over, though there are national variations in age definitions. Youth unemployment is a significant policy issue for many countries at all stages of development. **India's unemployment rate is rising daily, everyone aspires** to have a fulfilling carrier

but only few are able to do so. One reason may be that in today's world most of the businesses don't want to invest extra money and time in training the new hires. And it is the primary cause that restrain one nation from the progress.

But this paper is purely talking about the Bihar's youth unemployment. India has 1.24 crore people and 18.5 percent of the world's population, according to the 2011 Indian Census. And out of 1.24 crore population, Bihar population is almost 10.41 crore comprising 54,278,157 males and 49,821,295 females (Census 2011 India). This indicates a major increase from the 2001 Census, which recorded total Bihar population approx. 82,998,509.

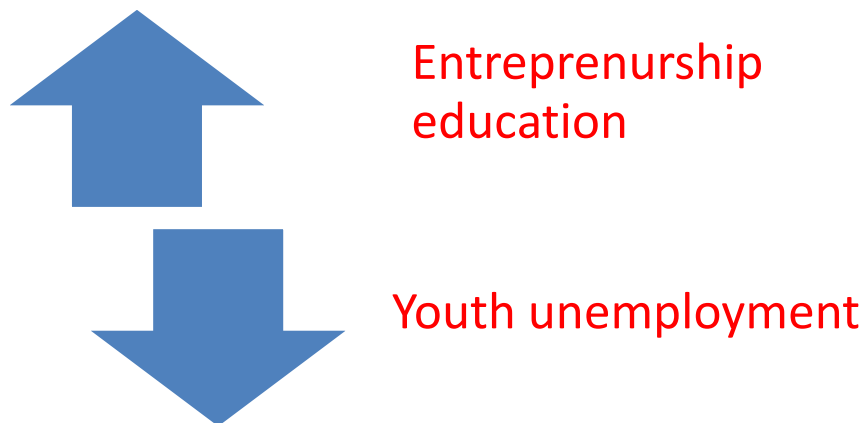
- **Present Situation of Unemployment in Bihar:** (Bihar Budget 2024-2025, National Statistical Office (NSO), (Budget, n.d.). As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (July 2022-June 2023), the unemployment rate in Bihar was 3.9%, higher than the national level (3.2%). Unemployment in the 15-29 years age group was 13.9%, also higher than the national level (10%). This shows positive improvement from last year, indicating positive trend in employment within the state, Bihar.

Youth Unemployment rate (persons of age group 15-29 years) declined to 12.9% during 2020-21 as compared to 17.8% in 2017-18. The proportion of youth unemployment in total unemployment reveals that the youth unemployment is around 83-85% of total unemployment, means the large portion of unemployed is comprised by youth persons. The youth unemployment in total youth population has declining trend and it is 5.3% in 2020-21 as compared to 6.8% in 2017-18. Around 5-6% youth are unemployed among the youth population (source: Labour and employment statistics 2022).

But at the same time, it is important to note that unemployment rate vary from factor to factor like age group, gender, quality of education and so on. But out of total population youth unemployment contributes the major part. In one the review done by the Indian economy, finance minister also said that the decline in the youth unemployment rate has been led by the states with a larger share of the young population, Bihar (with 3.5 crore youth). Although Bihar government has allocated 21.4% of its total expenditure on education in 2024-2025 (source: Bihar economic survey 2025). This major contribution indicates significantly higher than the average allocation made in the 2023-2024 i.e. just 14.7%. The reasons of unemployment in India are attributed to the growth of the workforce, the replacement of labour by capital, and the negative development of economic activity

Conclusion and Suggestions

A solely economic-reductionist viewpoint is not necessary to comprehend entrepreneurship education. If solely the economic aspect is included, it could monotonously steer kids toward an entrepreneurial career. Thus, if the entrepreneurship will be linked with just economic factor than naturally the interest among the youth will decrease. Therefore, the education system should be framed in the way which provides student with innovation and the newness which is the integral part of any entrepreneurship. And once the concept of entrepreneurship education will be strong, ultimately youth unemployment will decrease. And for this government policy interventions can also play a vital role, like interventions can be done for suitable introduction of education curriculum and in methods of teaching at all stage of education.



Through a comprehensive and inclusive strategy, Bihar can unleash its enormous potential for entrepreneurship, and can also encourage for the creation of jobs, and will boost economic expansion too.

For the data part, report issued by Ministry of labour and employment government of India, Labour and employment statistics 2022, international labour organization (ILO) is writing this article.

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