



Unemployment Problem Among Youth : A Sociological Study of Educated Unemployed

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ABSTRACT :- Youth is generally portrayed as an enthusiastic, vibrant, and innovative section of any population that shows strong passion, motivation, and willpower. This makes them the most valuable human resource for a nation's economic, social, cultural, and political development. However, if young people are unable to find a job that satisfies them, it destabilizes the rest of their lives. The unemployment problem is affecting a large number of youth, and a growing number of those have already achieved a respectable level of education. In this context, the purpose of this paper is to know what reason youth are perceived as responsible for unemployment among them and to provide suggestions to redress the unemployment problem among educated youth. The study is quantitative and uses a random sampling method with educated youth to collect data. This paper found that many reasons, such as lack of vocational education, demand, and supply imbalance, low quality of education, lack of communication skills, and lacking hold over the English language, are responsible for unemployment among educated youth.

Keywords: Youth, Unemployment, Educated Unemployed, PLFS, Quantitative Study.

Introduction - Youth is that power that can be a boon or a bane for any nation. They are capable enough to change the fate of any nation overnight. If their energy is adequately channeled for constructive purposes, they can become pivotal for the nation's development (Dalal, 2009). Contrary to this, a large chunk of young people in India are discouraged. The main reason for this discouragement is unemployment among young men and women. ILO defines "a person of working age as considered unemployed if they are not in employment, actively seeking employment, and available to take up employment."

Youth is an essential stage in one's life. It signifies the transition from education to work life. Work is at the root of a meaningful life, the path to individual independence, and a necessity for human survival and

flourishing. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, youth is the period between childhood and adulthood. The National Youth Policy, 2014 defined 'youth' as a person aged 15-29 years. India has the world's largest youth population, with 66% of its population below the age of 35 and 50% below 25.

Unemployment in India is the most profound problem. The data of the Center for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE, 2023) shows that the youth population of India, between 15 and 24 years of age, faces a double whammy of low and falling labor participation rates of 18.1 percent and shockingly high unemployment rates. The unemployment rate among youth stood at 45.4% in 2022-23 (CMIE, 2023). This is an alarming six times higher than India's unemployment rate of 7.5 percent. Even educated young people are coming under the fold of unemployment in large numbers. The unemployment rate among urban educated youth is 8.4%, which is higher than the overall unemployment rate of 7.3% among educated youth in 2022-2023 (PLFS, 2023). An educated unemployed youth is a person who is educated and is not able to find a satisfying job. Unemployment is painful to everybody, but the youth are the worst victim of the problem. The potential energy of the youth is often misdirected for socially unproductive activities. There is no doubt about the massive increase in unemployment that is taking place among educated youth.

Review of literature Mathew (1995) discovered that Kerala's educated unemployment had increased alarmingly. Educated unemployment was more acute in the rural sector. The relative oversupply of arts and science graduates is one of the significant factors contributing to educated unemployment. He observed that the duration of the waiting period (interval between a person's entries into the labor market on completion of education) had been considered an index of the gravity of the current educated unemployment. He also pointed out that the wait for regular employment is primarily a loss of potential income. The flourishing educated unemployment had led to a steady decline in actual earnings.

Chaubey (2000) pointed out the issue of youth unemployment in the overall context of labour force participation. He attempted to consider the employment and unemployment scenario in terms of distinct categories of rural-urban, male-female, and educated-uneducated perspectives. In this study, he explained that a low literacy level is responsible for low employment, and sometimes, it generates frustration among the youth. Various programs were initiated by the government to reduce youth unemployment. This study concluded that youth are unemployable because they lack the skills required by the market. Education and training are the remedy for this problem.

Dixit et al. (2008) found that unemployment resulted from educated youth wanting white-collar jobs. They observed that lack of education and vocational guidance facilities were the factors that gave rise to the problem of unemployment. Competition for jobs was the main problem of unemployment. The educated youth choose or get jobs quickly, and others are rejected. Money making is the only motive of the youth in choosing their profession. They commented that students must identify their capabilities and interests before taking any course. Employability is a more serious problem and challenge to the entire educational system.

Majumder and Mukherjee (2013) explain how economic growth depends on the contribution of youth. The rise of educated youth unemployment is giving birth to many social issues full of tension in terms of social conflict and becoming a nightmare. This article mainly focuses on the issue of education, includes skill development, and brings uncertainties among youth in India.

Objectives Of the Study- The present study sets the following objectives:

1. To know the Socio-economic and demographic profile of sampled youth.
2. To know the reasons for unemployment among educated youth.
3. To provide suggestions to redress the problem of educated unemployed youth.

Research Methodology- The study is descriptive in nature and has used a quantitative method. The study is conducted in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh. The study universe consists of the educated unemployed youth population in the age category 15-29 years, those who completed at least ten years of education (secondary education). The sample size is 50 youth chosen from the selected urban colony of the Sarojini Nagar constituent assembly. The youth are selected through random sampling to collect primary data. The primary data was collected through the interview schedule and was administered to 50 educated unemployed youth. Both primary and secondary data are used in this study. Primary data is collected directly from the youth, and secondary data is obtained from secondary sources such as books, research articles in journals, CMIE reports, PLFS reports on unemployment, etc. The data is analyzed through frequency distribution and tabulation.

Findings of the Study: Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Gender

Sl No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Female	20	40
2	Male	30	60
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

Table 1 presents the frequency distribution of youth according to gender. The table shows that 60% of the youth are male, and 40% are female. Hence, the percentage of male youth is higher than the percentage of female youth.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Age-group

Sl No.	Age group (in years)	Frequency	Percent
1	18-21	6	12
2	22-25	27	54
3	26-29	17	34
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

Table 1 shows the age group category of the sampled youth. The youth have been categorized into age groups between 18-21, 22-25' and 26-29 years. More than half (54%) of youth are between the ages of 22 and 25. This is followed by 34 % of youth between 26 and 29 years of age. The remaining 12% of youth belong to the age group of 18-21 years. Hence, an overwhelming majority (88%) of the youth are between the ages of 22 and 29.

Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Religion

SI No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Hindu	47	94
2	Muslim	3	6
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

Table 3 reveals that out of 50 sampled youth, 94% are Hindu, and 6% are Muslim. The analysis of the data shows that the Hindus formed an overwhelming majority.

Table 4: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Religion

SI No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	General	17	34
2	Other Backward caste (OBC)	13	26
3	Scheduled castes	20	40
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

For this study, the caste groups are divided into General, Other Backward Castes, and Scheduled Castes. Table 4 demonstrates that 40% of the youth are from the Scheduled castes category. This is followed by 34% of youth from the General Category and 26% from scheduled castes.

Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Household Income

SI No.	Income Category (In Rupees)	Frequency	Percent
1	Up to 10000	8	16
2	10001-25000	11	22
3	25001-50000	14	28
4	50001-100000	8	16
5	Above 100000	9	18
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

The data analysis in Table 5 shows that the monthly incomes for 16% of households are up to Rs.10000, 22% of households are between Rs. 10001–25000, and 28% are between Rs. 25001–50000. While another 16% of households are between Rs. 50001–100000, and the remaining 18% of households, belong to the income category of above 100000 rupees in a month

Table 6: Frequency Distribution of Youth According to Education Level

SI No.	Education Level of Respondent	Frequency	Percent
1	Intermediate	2	4
2	Graduation	13	26
3	Post-graduation	35	70
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

Table 6 shows that 4 percent of youth have intermediate-level education, 26 percent have graduate-level education, and 70 percent have post-graduate education.

**Table 7: Distribution of respondent's response to:
What reason do you perceive as responsible for unemployment among youth**

Sl No.	Statements	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Failure of the education system	16	32
2	Lack of vocational education	9	18
3	Demand and supply imbalance	6	12
4	Lack of relevant work experience	7	14
5	Lack of IT skills	6	12
6	Government policies are not effective	6	12
Total		50	100

(Source: Field survey)

The youth were asked what reasons they perceived as responsible for unemployment among educated youth. Data in Table 7 shows that 32% of youth perceive that the education system's failure is the main reason for unemployment among educated youth. 18% of youth perceive that lack of vocational education is the reason for educated unemployment. 12% of youth perceive that the demand and supply imbalance in the labor market is the factor responsible for unemployment. Another 14% of youth perceive the lack of relevant work experience as a reason for unemployment among educated youth, while 12% of youth perceive a lack of information and technology skills as the reason for unemployment among youth. The remaining 12% of youth perceive policies made by the government to reduce unemployment among educated youth as ineffective.

**Table 8: Distribution of respondent's response to:
Do you think that unemployment can be removed among educated youth by?**

Statements	Response		Total
	Yes	No	
Reforming the education system	40 (80%)	10 (20%)	50 (100%)
Improving employment program	42 (84%)	8 (16%)	50 (100%)
Increasing the possibility of becoming self-employed	40 (80%)	10 (20%)	50 (100%)
Creating more employment opportunities from the state	42 (84%)	8 (16%)	50 (100%)

Curbing population growth	48 (96%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)
Emphasis should be laid on skill development	44 (88%)	6 (12%)	50 (100%)
Special program for educated youth	43 (86%)	7(14%)	50 (100%)

(Source: Field survey)

An analysis of the available data in Table 8 shows that 80% of educated unemployed youth think that unemployment can be removed by reforming the education system, 20% say that unemployment cannot be removed by reforming the education system. 84% of youth said by improving the unemployment programs, unemployment can be removed, and 16% said unemployment cannot be removed by improving unemployment programs. Increasing the possibilities of becoming self-employed can remove unemployment among educated youth, said 80% of youth, and another 20% said that unemployment cannot be removed by this. 84% of youth said that unemployment can be removed if the state creates more employment opportunities, and 16% of youth said unemployment cannot be removed. 96% of youth say unemployment can be removed among educated youth by curbing population growth, and 4% said unemployment cannot be removed. 88% of youth said that by emphasizing skill development among educated youth, unemployment can be removed; in contrast, 12% said unemployment can not. 86% of youth said that by making special programs for educated youth, unemployment could be removed, and 14% said unemployment could not.

Conclusion and Suggestion- The unemployment problem is affecting a large number of youth, and a growing number of those have already achieved a respectable level of education. In the absence of any social security for unemployed youth, the problem becomes more acute. The problem of educated unemployed youth could be due to several reasons, such as failure of the education system, lack of vocational education, demand and supply imbalance, lack of relevant work experience, and lack of information and technology skills. The policies made by the government to overcome the problem of unemployment among youth are not effective. The state should reform the education system to remove unemployment among educated youth. Education should be linked with job opportunities. Programs and policies made for the unemployed should be improved. The state should create more job opportunities in the different public and private sectors. The increasing population creates a demand and supply imbalance in the labor market. There is not enough job supply according to job demand. There is a need for a population control policy, whether several family planning programs are running, but these are not enough to control population growth. There is a need to make education at the secondary level more career-oriented, and skill development in the curriculum should be imparted. By framing special programs for educated youth, unemployment could be removed among educated youth.

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