

Comprehending the Dynamics of the Sources of Unemployment: A Study of Ukhrul District of Manipur

Sandeep Gupta¹ and Phungreishang Chithung²

¹(Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India)

²(PhD Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India)

Abstract: Any serious attempt to address the issue of unemployment in any society will necessitate tracing the different sources of unemployment in that area. Diverse causes have come up from different studies conducted in different parts of the world, contributing to unemployment among the youth. The major causes contributing to the unemployment is the imbalance of supply and demand of the educated human resource. The growth of the educated number of youth does not match the number of employment that comes in the state. The major causes which have been responsible for the wide spread unemployment are rapid population growth, limited land, seasonal agriculture, decline of cottage industries, defective education, educated unemployment, slow growth of industrialisation, defective planning, immobility of labour, corruption.

The present study is attempt to understand the dynamics of the causes of unemployment in Ukhrul district of Manipur where unemployment is one of the major crisis that the people are facing and the government is almost unable to address. The study is focussed in Ukhrul district of 5 blocks, i.e. Chingai, Ukhrul central, Phungyar, Kamjong, Kasom. The study is carried out to explore the patterns of the problem of unemployment in the Ukhrul District. The study finds that the major contributors of unemployment in the study area are outdated quality of education, lack of assistance received from the employment office, lack of vocational or technical school training, low wages in the jobs available, financial problem of the respondents and their family, poor functioning of bureaucracy, political parties and politicians, judiciary, police and other security forces and rampant corruption of the political authority.

Keywords: Unemployment; Education; Youth; Employment; Corruption.

I. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is one of the most pertinent crisis encountered by almost all the societies of the world today, even the developed countries are no longer devoid of it, though its extent varies from societies to societies. Diverse causes have come up from different studies conducted in different parts of the world, contributing to unemployment among the educated youth. The major causes contributing to the unemployment is the imbalance of supply and demand of the educated human resource. The growth of the educated number of youth does not match the number of employment that comes in the state. The major causes which have been responsible for the wide spread unemployment are rapid population growth, limited land, seasonal agriculture, decline of cottage industries, defective education, educated unemployment, slow growth of industrialisation, defective planning, immobility of labour, corruption (Osemengbe, 2013¹).

The present study is attempt to understand the dynamics of the causes of unemployment in Ukhrul district of Manipur where unemployment is one of the major crisis that the people are facing and the government is almost unable to address. According to official reports of Employment Exchange Office Report, there are 33,918 educated youth seeking employment in Ukhrul district as on 2016 (till October). The population of Ukhrul, according to the 2011 census, is 183,998. Political observers say that, due to absence of industries in Manipur, employment opportunities are very limited in Ukhrul district. Consequently, the government sector over burdened and the state government now holding that it does not have enough funds to recruit such large numbers of education youths. But the reality shows that till 2014-15 in Ukhrul district the number of micro, small & medium enterprises is nil.

Table1. District-Wise number of EM (Part-II) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises at District Industries Centre under the various State UT Commissioner ate/Directorate of Industries for the year 2014-15

Sl.No	District	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
1	Senapati	11	0	0	11
2	Tamenglong	10	01	0	11
3	Churachanpur	18	0	0	18
4	Bishnupur	79	0	0	79
5	Thoubal	07	02	0	09
6	Imphal West	20	06	01	27

7	Imphal East	31	10	0	41
8	Ukhrul	0	0	0	0
9	Chandel	02	0	0	02
Total		178	19	01	198

Source: Nucleus Cell / Comm. & Industry .Manipur

Moreover when we look at the trend of the number of micro, small & medium enterprises over the period from 2007-16 in Manipur, it shows that the growth is significantly slowing down.

Table2: District Industrial Potential Survey Report of Imphal West District 2014-15

Sl.No	Year	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
1	2007-08	53	1	-	54
2	2008-09	131	6	1	138
3	2009-10	76	4	1	81
4	2010-11	117	5	-	122
5	2011-12	111	10	1	122
6	2012-13	174	7	-	181
7	2013-14	164	13	1	178
8	2014-15	178	19	1	198
9	2015-16	23	0	0	23
Total		849	82	5	1097

Source: DIC, Imphal West District Industrial Potential Survey Report of Imphal West District 2014-15

The extent of the crisis is giving birth to other problems as corruption, to quote from Singh (2011), “The estimated rates for various posts are discussed in private conversations range between Rs 3-4 lakh for a primary teacher, Rs 10-15 lakh for a sub-inspector/assistant SI of police, up to 15 lakh for a supervisor (women and child welfare), and Rs 15-25 lakh (or even higher) for a state civil services post.” Therefore, it can be said that it is alleged that every government job has a price tag in Manipur. Those youths whose family cannot afford huge amounts to be paid as bribes are not shortlisted and many of them become sensitive and vulnerable to anti-national propaganda. It is also expressed by the educated youth of Ukhrul district that they cannot even start small-scale industries in their own district as power supply is erratic and infrastructure facilities like road connectivity are extremely bad.

Therefore, many of the unemployed educated youths had gone to other states or country seeking employment and a large number of educated youth who got job placements in many industrial and services sectors in the mainland India forgot their own tradition and culture as they don't come back to their own state. After having attempt in many job and being disqualified, frustrated youth either get addicted to drugs, started committing crime and bandit, or finally join insurgency and some other youth depend on their parents for everything including daily expenditure. As the state government cannot bring a positive change to intervene the youth that is left in the middle of nowhere, youth fall easy prey to anti-social and anti-national elements.

Therefore the present study is an attempt to understand the patterns of unemployment in Ukhrul district of Manipur, so that we can reach to some answer to the crisis. The study is focussed in Ukhrul district of 5 blocks, i.e. Chingai, Ukhrul central, Phungyar, Kamjong, Kasom. The study is carried out to explore the patterns of the problem of unemployment in the Ukhrul District. Hence it follows an exploratory and descriptive research design as the study attempts to explore a new territory. The study area i.e Ukhrul district of Manipur is divided in to strata of five (5) subdivisions. From the specified subdivisions, youths belonging within the age group of 20 to 38 years are taken as sample. The size of the Universe is 33,918 according to 2016 October that has registered in the Employment Exchange record in Ukhrul District, Manipur. Therefore, the Sample size for the study is 600 with 4% margin of error and 95% confidence level.

Table3. Youth registered in the Employment Exchange record in Ukhrul District, Manipur

Year	Male	Female	Total
2014 (Till December)	20,205	8,736	28,941
2015 (Till December)	21,154	9,264	30,418
2016 (Till October)	23,380	10,538	33,918

Source: Employment Exchange, Ukhrul 2016,

II. METHODOLOGY

The data is collected from both primary and secondary sources. For primary sources the methods of data collection are interview and observation. Interview is conducted with the help of interview schedule and non participatory observation method is used. Moreover other tools used for data collection are camera and voice recorders. For secondary sources the data is collected from books, government documents, archive materials, internet sources etc. The researcher has used non probability sampling method i.e purposive sampling

as the unemployed youth are difficult to be traced particularly in the study area as they spend most of their time outside their house.

III. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Socio economic background of the respondents

To understand the patterns of the unemployment in any social setting one has to understand the social background of the unemployed as it plays a significant role in determining the pattern. The data for the present study has been collected from 600 respondents who are unemployed and from the age group 20-40. The study is conducted on 64.0% of male and 36.0% female respondents. The age group of the respondents shows that majority of them (48.8%) are from 26-30 age group, followed by 20-25 (26.5%). The study is conducted at Ukhrul where majority are from Tangkhul tribe, which is one of the largest Naga tribe in Manipur. All the respondents for the study are from Tangkhul tribe, who practice Christianity. The educational level of the respondent reveals a optimistic picture as majority of the respondents has completed their bachelor degree (54.0%) followed by master degree (30.0%), higher secondary 10+2 with (14%) and Ph.D with (2%) in the study area. Because of their educational background they are also mostly (95%) multilingual who knows Manipuri, Hindi and English. When asked about the main reason for discontinuing from studies, it reveals that 50.3% respondents have discontinued as they finished their course and want to start working after that, Batu, M. M. (2016).² Moreover, 21.7% have discontinued as they finished their course/studies and don't want to continue it any more.

The economic status of the respondents also plays a vital role in capturing the patterns of unemployment and measuring its impact on them and their family. The monthly household income of the respondents reveals that most of them (37.7%) have income of Rs 30,001 – Rs 45000, followed by (17.2%) Rs 15,001- 20,000, (16.8%) Rs 10,000-15000, (16.2%) Rs 25,001-3000 and finally (12.2%) Rs 20,001- 25,000. The monthly households income is also reflected in their household consumption pattern as majority (66.2%) of them have very low consumption pattern, followed by low household consumption pattern (14.2%), Raj, K.N. (2014)³. The size of the family of the respondents reveals that majority of them (63%) have big family with 5-7 members. The type of household of the unemployed youth who are taken as a respondent, majority of the respondents (52.7%) have semi concrete type of house followed by katcha house 42% and finally concrete houses 5.3%. When asked about the occupation of the respondent parents, it shows that (49.0%) are practicing agriculture, followed by (13.3%) of government servant, whereas the occupation of the respondent mother reveals that 36.22% are engaged in housework whereas 36.2% are engaged in agriculture work.

Sources of Unemployment

The study shows that more than half of the sample youth (53.2%) don't believe that there is a mismatch in their profession and qualification whereas a significant proportion (46.8%) agreed that there is a mismatch which is leading to a sense of dissatisfaction among the youth motivating to discontinue their job and remain unemployed, International Labour organisation, (2006)⁴. Therefore, the study reveals that majority of the educated youth (57.0%) think that quality of education is the caused for them remaining unemployed, European Youth Forum (2013)⁵. When asked to the respondent about any assistance they are receiving from the employment office, it exposed that a huge majority (82.9%) of the respondent did not get any help or assistance from the employment office. The respondent were asked again whether they have received any vocational or technical training, it reveals again that mainstream of the respondents (64.8%) did not have any vocational or technical school training; whereas 35.2% of them received vocational or technical school training, From those who had vocational training, majority (84.0%) found the education/training were very useful. Hence the study clearly reveals lack of vocational training among the respondents though most of them find it useful for them Kengoo (2012)⁶, Mandal, & Ali, (2001)⁷. The past work experience of the respondent shows that, most of them (27.7%) were engaged with community volunteer work, followed by private company (19.2%), non profit organisation (17.3%). Though the aggravated problem of unemployment is established in the study, the study also confirms that there are respondents who have left their job in the area too, Batu, (2016)². When asked about the reason, it point out that it's because of low wages by (65.7%) followed by working condition of (8.2%). It reveals that the problem of low wages and poor working condition is a encouraging youths to leave their jobs, Singha, (2009)⁸. Consequently opting for employment opportunities outside the district and the state seems to be a natural option opted by the respondents who are mostly educated, but surprisingly most of them (69.7%) are not opting to leave their place for seeking job. The prime reason for not availing opportunities outside Ukhrul district is financial problem (47.7%), followed by family problem (23.5%), personal issues (22.5%), Anurag, R. (2013)⁹, Batu, (2016)².

On the other hand, on the status of satisfaction level of the respondents on present educational system, the study shows that majority (63.3%) are partially satisfied whereas (23.8%) of the respondent are not satisfied and a mere 9.8% of them are satisfied with the present educational system that clearly indicates the lack of trust of the respondent in the present educational system Carnoy, (1987)¹⁰, Kengoo, (2012)¹¹.

According to the interview with the respondent, the level of satisfaction regarding the role and functioning of bureaucracy, functioning of political parties and politicians, functioning of judiciary, police and other security forces are not satisfied by the respondent as they do not carry their responsibilities in a proper way, Gray, (2001)¹², Holte, (1988)¹³. It reveals that perspective of respondent towards the level of satisfaction in the functioning of bureaucracy, it shows that the majority of the respondents are not satisfied (71.3%) by the functioning of bureaucracy in the study area, followed by those (18.7%) who are highly unsatisfied, and a very small share of the respondents (9.8%) who finds it satisfactory. Hence, it reveals that bureaucracy clearly fails to reach to the youths and fails to cater to their expectations Sinha, (1987)¹⁴. Moreover, also is also questionable as most of the respondent (68.0%) are unsatisfactory with the functioning of political parties and politicians, whereas (28.8%) of the respondent find it highly unsatisfactory. The study established the distrust of the youth in the functioning of the local political parties where they seem to have lost hope in it, Sinha, (1987)¹⁴, Imphal Free Press (2012)¹⁵. It also reveals that majority of the respondent are not satisfied with the functioning of judiciary in the study area as most of the respondent (68.5%) are not satisfied with the functioning of judiciary, followed by those (28.8%) who are highly unsatisfied, and a negligible share of those who are satisfactory (2.7%). The study proves that judiciary in the area failed to convince the youth about its transparent functioning, as majority of the respondent are unsatisfied with the functioning of judiciary that include corruption practices involved in judiciary in the area. Role and functioning of police & security forces in the area is visibly not optimistic according to the respondent as majority of the respondent (51.0%) are highly unsatisfied with the role and functioning police & security forces in the area, followed by those who are (46.5%) unsatisfied, and few respondents who are still (2.5%) satisfactory that clearly reveals the imperfect image of the police in the eyes of the youths of the area, mainly for their engagement misuse of power and human rights violations. Therefore, the study also shows that the state government is not bringing the change for the unemployed youths, as majority of them (71.7%) believe in that, followed (23.0%) of the respondent who are not sure about its role in bringing change Carnoy, (1987)¹⁰, Jha, (2013)¹⁶, Kurien, (1978)¹⁷. The loss of hope in the state government rises because of existence of corruption that is practiced by the main stream politics towards the hill population that is reflected.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study confirms that the major contributors of unemployment in the study area are outdated quality of education which is making them almost unemployable in this competitive market. The lack of assistance received from the employment office is also playing its role in the aggravating the status of unemployment in the area. Lack of vocational or technical school training is another major reason for the youth remaining unemployed as those who are having it are finding very suitable to get job. Very low wages provided by the employers because of the rampant unemployment in jobs available is also motivating the youths to remain unemployed. The financial problem of the respondents and their family is also restricting the respondents from starting their own business or leaving Ukhrul for seeking job. The respondents also held the poor functioning of bureaucracy, political parties and politicians, judiciary, police and other security forces and rampant corruption of the political authority responsible for the constant growth unemployment in the area. Hence the study establish the fact that vocational training to the youths, more market oriented courses in the colleges and schools, availability of loans to the youths to initiate start-ups, proper implementation of labour laws to check exploitations of employees by the employers particularly in private sectors, constructive role played by the bureaucracy, political parties and politicians, judiciary, police and other security forces to check the rampant corruption, can together effectively address the issue of unemployment in the area.

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