

Measuring the Impact of Unemployment on Youth in 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: Unemployment of youth is one of the most serious crises that human society is facing today. The crisis is serious as unemployment is not an end in itself; it is giving birth to many other social problems as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, gambling, insurgency, suicide etc. When these unemployed youths are educated, the problem is graver, as they can easily fall into the prey of violent protest against political system which proved to be incapable of addressing their problem. Hence the present study attempts to capture the impacts of unemployment, which is one of the major impediments the youths are facing in Manipur in general and Ukhrul district in particular. The study is focussed in Ukhrul district of 5 blocks, i.e. Chingai, Ukhrul central, Phungyar, Kamjong, Kasom.

The study reveals that unemployment is causing financial, social and psychological struggle to the youths and it is not confined to the unemployed only as their entire family is also affected by this. The negative financial, social and psychological effects of unemployment make the youth vulnerable to be victims of other social problems as addiction to alcoholic drinks (35.2%) followed by gambling (24.7%), insurgency (14.7%), addiction to drugs (13.8%), crime (11.7%).

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

I. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment of youth is one of the most serious crises that human society is facing today. ILO estimates that the global youth unemployment rate is expected to reach 13.1 per cent in 2016 and remain at that level through to 2017. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), between 2012–2020, almost 1.1 billion of young job seekers are likely to enter in the job market and many of them would be in South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa. Therefore, (ILO 2012) gives a statement that 600 million jobs will be needed over the next 15 years. But the crisis is serious as unemployment is not an end in itself; it is giving birth to many other social problems as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, gambling, insurgency, suicide etc. When these unemployed youths are educated, the problem is graver, as they can easily fall into the prey of violent protest against political system which proved to be incapable of addressing their problem.

Hence the present study attempts to capture the impacts of unemployment, which is one of the major impediments the youths are facing in Manipur in general and Ukhrul district in particular. 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), which may be much less than the real figure as not every youth prefer to register their name in employment exchange as they have lost hope in it. The population of Ukhrul, according to the 2011 census, is 183,998. Political observers say that, due to absence of industries in Manipur, alternative employment opportunities apart from government jobs are very limited in Ukhrul district. Consequently, the government sector is 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

Therefore as unemployment is a momentous crisis that the region is facing is also giving birth to many other social problems, the present paper is an attempt to capture the extent of these impact of unemployment on youth and their society.

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. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

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 (Uriah, O.A.; Ololube, N.P. & Egbezor, D.A. 2015). 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. Moreover, 21.7% have discontinued as they finished their course/studies and don't want to continue 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 (Khan, J.H., & Hassan, T., 2011). 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%), average 12.3. The size of the family of the respondents reveals that majority of them (63%) have big family with 5-7 members (Vikash, P. 2014). 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, (Tilak, V. R. K., 1965) 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.

Interpretation of the different problem that emerged due to unemployment

The study shows that majority of the respondents (83.0%) believe that population growth is responsible for the rising problem of unemployment (Bhebhe etal; 2015), but it has not stopped the educated youth from

looking for job as 69.5% of the respondent are still actively seeking for a job (Gomathi, V. & Neela, M. 2016), while a significant number (30.5%) of the respondents are not looking for any job as they may have lost hope in the system. This is mainly because the educated unemployed feels education is a priority for getting a job, 83.3% of the respondent did not ever stop their education whereas 16.7% of the respondent stopped their education to work or look for work and then re-enter school/colleges at a later date. The study shows that these educated youth suffering from unemployment are facing problems as family problems (40.0%), followed by economic impediments (38.3%), psychological stress (13.3) addiction to different drugs (8.3) (Weich, S., & Lewis, G. 1998; Majumder, R. & Mukherjee, D. 2013; Mansingh, J.P., & Legesse. W. 2016). The problem of unemployment has come up to a big concern because most of the educated unemployed youth (51.2%) are more likely to accept any job provided it is stable (Alan, B. K., & and Maleckova, J. 2013), followed by those who have reported that they will accept any job in whatever the condition (28.8%). The dearth of employment opportunities is forcing them to take any job they get without being choosy. Thus, from the survey, majority of the respondents (57.3%) needs a minimum level of income per month below which they are not going to accept a job as the respondents are well qualified, whereas a significant number of them (42.7%) do not need a minimum level of income per month to accept a job as the respondent are too desperate to get any job (Cooper, D. 2014). In these conditions moving out of the district or the state would be a considerable option for youths but most of the youths (59.7%) are not considering moving out of the district for seeking job mainly because of financial inabilities.

The unemployed youth often feel that they are not getting the importance in their family, peers group and society. In the study it is found that most of the respondents are consulted by their family members regarding family affairs only occasionally (46.7%), followed by always (44.8%) rarely (8.5%). Hence it tells about the status of those youths who are unemployed in their own house. Consequently majority (87.5%) of the respondents believed that unemployment undermines their status at home as well the status of their family in the community which shows that unemployment is a problem for the individual, family and society as it hampers their familial and social image (Fineman, S. 1983). This inject a sense of inferiority complex in the mind of the youth who started to believe that their status is not going to change as majority of the respondent are not sure if they can fulfil the expectations of their parents by getting a job (59%) and followed by those who are confident of getting job (34.5%) whereas (6.3%) of the respondent have no hope of fulfilling the parental expectations. Therefore, it is clear that majority of the respondents are doubting their chances of fulfilling their parents or guardians' expectations in the near future, (Osemengbe, O. 2013). At the same time, study also reveals that most of the respondents (69.3%) interact with unemployed friends. This tells the level of inferiority complex of the respondents who are not comfortable in regularly spending time and interacting with employed friends of theirs. As the situation of unemployment is getting high in the study reveals that majority (48.3%) of the respondent are uncertain about their chances of getting a suitable job of their choice and hence most of the respondent (70.8%) think that their life will end up doing something different from what they have been trained for. It also reveals majority of the respondent (51.7%) in the past have felt isolated and feels that they are cut off from the society, which may be an instrumental reason for the youth becoming vulnerable to fall into the trap of crime.

Table3: Cases Reported (I), Victims (V) & Rate(R) of Cognizable Crimes (IPC) Under Different Crime Heads During 2015

Sl	Crime	I	V	R
1	Murder (Sec.302IPC)	81	102	3.1
2	Attempt to Commit Murder (Sec. 307 IPC)	196	205	7.6
3	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	46	46	3.6
4	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363-369, 371-373 IPC)	179	192	7.0
5	Robbery (Sec. 392-394,397,398 IPC)	7	8	0.3
6	Criminal Trespass/Burglary (Sec. 449-452,454,455, 457-460 IPC)	84	-	3.3
7	Theft (Sec.379-382 IPC)	1333	-	51.8
8	Riots (Sec.143-145,147 151,153,153A,153B,157, 158,160 IPC)	164	176	6.4
9	Criminal Breach of Trust (Sec. 406-409 IPC)	51	-	2.0
10	Cheating (Sec. 419,420 IPC)	124	-	4.8
11	Forgery	20	-	0.8
12	Counterfeiting (Sec. 231-254,489A- 489D IPC)	6	-	0.2
13	Arson (Sec. 435,436,438 IPC)	75	-	2.9
14	Grievous Hurt (Section 325, 326, 326A & 326B IPC)	224	226	8.7
15	Assault on Women With Intent to Outrage Her Modesty (Sec.354 IPC)	84	84	6.6
16	Cruelty By Husband Or His Relatives (Sec. 498A IPC)	39	39	3.1
17	Causing Death By Negligence (Sec. 304A IPC)	119	136	4.6
18	Offences Against State (Section 121, 121A, 122, 123 & 124A IPC)	20	-	0.7

19	Extortion	67	69	2.6
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Source: *Crime in India 2015 statistic, National Crime Records Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs)*

The table show that in Manipur most of the crime is related to violent crimes, murder, kidnapping, theft and in all these crime youths are engaged who are vulnerable to fall into the prey of these crimes mainly because of their unemployment.

IV. CONCLUSION

Hence the study reveals that unemployment is causing financial, social and psychological struggle to the youths and it is not confined to the unemployed only as their entire family is also affected by this. The negative financial, social and psychological effects of unemployment make the youth vulnerable to be victims of other social problems as addiction to alcoholic drinks (35.2%) followed by gambling (24.7%), insurgency (14.7%), addiction to drugs (13.8%), crime (11.7%) (Gould, E.D., etal 2002; Osemengbe, O. 2013). Though the study reveals the failure of political leadership as majority of the respondents (89.7%) held poor political leadership as the reason for unemployment in the area, the policy makers and the government needs to look after the youth in various ways by giving an opportunity to the youths by opening new avenues of employment as improving the infrastructure for entrepreneurship (Bhagat, R. 2002) and attracting private companies to the State and district of Ukhrul. Moreover the civil society and other pressure groups should stand by these youths and pressurise the government to come up with policies that address their requirements and also act as a watch dog during the implementation of these policies. The people of the region should also look for other employment generating measures through tourism, entrepreneurship endeavours etc. The study clearly reveals that unemployment is an immense crisis that the region in particular and the state in general is facing today and it is also giving birth to other severe social problems, hence the first step to solve the problem is to recognise the extent of the problem which both the state government and the civil societies are still now reluctant to accept.

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