

Youth Unemployment in Rural Areas: A Case Study of Jangipara C.D Block in Hugli District, West Bengal (India)

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Abstract: *Creating jobs for young people is a major challenge now a days. In this broad global context, this paper presents a detailed profile of youth unemployment in Serampur Subdivision of Hugli District, West Bengal. Young people face major barriers because of poverty and low level of human resource. Though educational status has risen quickly in recent years both in urban and rural areas, gaining a foothold in the labour market which remains elusive for many young people leading to analyse the trend of youth unemployment, joblessness etc. This paper also offers policy recommendations for increasing productive employment and reduction in unemployment for the youth.*

Keywords: *Youth Unemployment, Joblessness, Vocational Training, Skill Development, Working Age, Labour Market.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The importance of youth unemployment can hardly be overestimated. The youth are the potential and future of every country and governments with a long term vision for welfare and development in their countries are concerned with the best ways to integrate the youth into the labour force. Young people are a major human resource for development, key agents for social change and driving force for economic development and technological innovation. But harnessing these resources is a major challenge. The youth challenge is considered as the most critical of the 21st century's economic development challenge.

II. CONCEPT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth unemployment is the unemployment of young people, defined by the United Nations as 15–24 years old. An unemployed person is someone who does not have a job but is actively seeking work. In order to qualify as unemployed for official and statistical measurement, the individual must be without employment, willing and able to work, of the officially designated 'working age' and actively searching for a position. Youth unemployment rates are historically double or more the adult rates in nearly every country in the world. Globally, over 75 million youth were unemployed at the end of 2010. Reasons for and rates of youth unemployment vary across national contexts. Official rates in the early 2010s decade ranged from under ten percent in Germany, Vietnam, Sierra Leone and Cuba to around fifty percent in countries including Armenia, Macedonia, South Africa, and Spain. Since unemployment is defined as those out of work but actively seeking work, the youth that are out of work but not seeking work is not a part of the unemployment statistics. Youth in training, unpaid internships, or educational programs but not seeking paid work is not counted as unemployed, even though their presence in such programs may indicate a shortage of jobs for young people. Thus, the rate of youth unemployment is undercounted.

III. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as follows-

1. To identify the pattern of youth unemployment in Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision
2. To ascertain the main causes of youth unemployment in Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision
3. To examine the effects of youth unemployment in socio-economic life of the inhabitants of Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision
4. To suggest some remedial measures to overcome this problem.
5. To acquire knowledge about their socio economic condition

IV. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The work has been accomplished mainly by collection of primary data from extensive field visits. Methodology is the way of achieving the goal through the drawing of inference by observation, collection and differential analysis of relevant data relating to the study of youth unemployment in rural areas. In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, the methodology of work has been divided into several phases:

- Collection of secondary data – At first choice of study area, then secondary data was collected from different government and non government agencies.
- Sample size: Total 50 young unemployed people (including male and female) are interrogated on the basis of questionnaire schedule.
- Sample Design: At first out of 10 Gram Panchayets, 5 villages from different gram panchayet are chosen by their location, one village was selected from each direction i.e. north, south, east, west and central position of every block. With the help of the systematic formulated questionnaire schedule primary data regarding nature of youth employment are collected by door to door as well as club survey.
- Collected data was tabulated, calculated, analyzed and represented different statistical and quantitative techniques which are followed by interpretation.

V. STUDY AREA

The study area covers the Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision of Hugli district of West Bengal, India. The area is located in the southern part of West Bengal. Its latitudinal extension is 22° 39' 32" N- 22° 01' 20" N and longitudinal extension is 87°30' 15" E - 88° 30' 20" E. The study area is bounded on the north by parts of Haripal and Tarakeswar C.D block. Chanditala-I and Chanditala – II C.D block is located in the eastern portion and in the southern portion Haora district is situated. The total area of the block is 164.2 Sq. Km. The block has 10 Gram Panchayet and 128 villages. According to 2011 Census total population of Jangipara C.D block was 221578 with male population of 112317 and female population of 109261 so the male female ratio is 51:49.

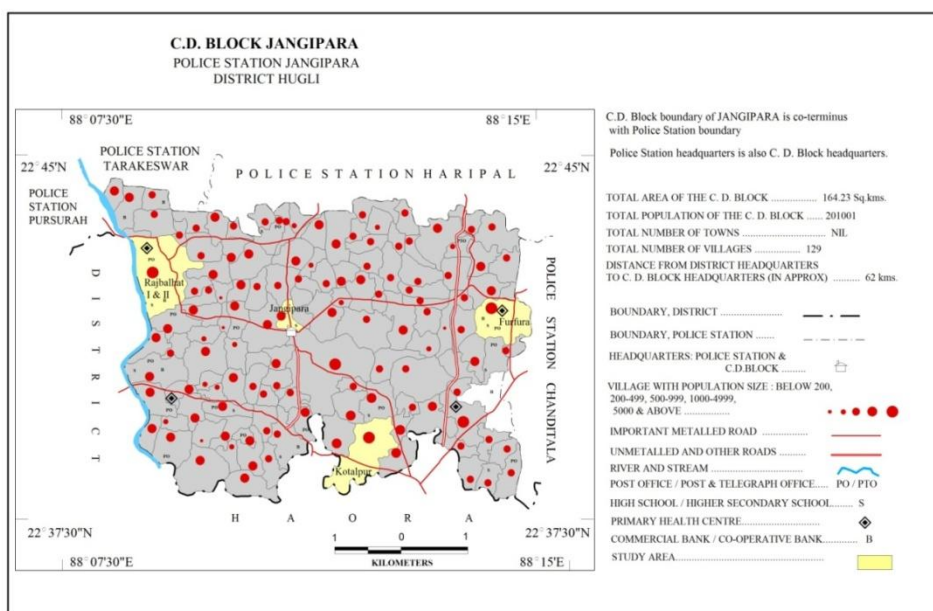


Figure: 1 Location Map

VI. FACTORS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

There are many causes behind the youth unemployment rate. Causes stem from issues related to the structure of job and labor markets. There has also been a rise in the phenomenon of internships and other temporary work for youth which has a significant impact on youth unemployment rates. The factors of youth unemployment are as follows:

- Inflexible labour markets
- Increased education expectations
- Temporary contracts
- Family impact:
- Shortage of Jobs:
- Skills Mismatch:

- Women – Security and Social Restrictions:
- Decent Work Deficit:
- Lack of Training for Work:
- Acceleration of Population Growth and Mortality Decline:
- Expansion of Education:
- Slow Growth of the Economy
- Inadequate credit facilities.
- Emphasis on the formal sector alone.
- Non-attractive agricultural sector and the rural areas in general.
- Influence of culture.
- Lack of information:

VII. CONSEQUENCES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

One of the many aspects that resulted in the formation of the Youth Development Department was the need to address the increasing problems afflicting the youth in the country. Many of the problems youth are linked to the poverty that they face as a result of unemployment. Many unemployed youth are engaged in criminal and dangerous activities in order to financially support themselves and/or to cope with the difficulties of living in poverty.

- Increasing drug trafficking and abuse rates
- High HIV/AIDS/STD prevalence among the youth
- Unplanned and Early pregnancies, abortions etc
- Prostitution etc.

VIII. TRENDS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: A CASE STUDY OF JANGIPARA C.D BLOCK IN HUGLI DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL (INDIA)

Primary survey has done on the basis of a questionnaire schedule over the selected 5 villages in Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision of Hugli district, West Bengal in 2016 for the assessment of unemployment situation. 71 percent of male and 29 percent of female population have been surveyed in different categories. Among them 21 percent are general, 63 percent are SC, 2 percent are ST and remaining 14 percent are in OBC category. 82 percent people speak in Bengali language; few of them (9 percent) can speak in Hindi whereas only 9 percent people can able to speak in English. By religion 82 percent are Hindu and 18 percent are Muslims. 2 percent people found illiterate, 12 percent can able to sign only their name, 16 percent got primary education, 23 percent also got secondary education. Only 23 percent has taken up to higher secondary level and 22 percent complete the graduation level and 2 percent people have completed post graduation. Monthly income of the families of the surveyed people is not so high. 93 percent family earned less than 5000 rupees per month and remaining 7 percent people earned more than 5000 rupees per month.

As current weekly status method have used to depict the real picture it is found that 23 percent people engaged in any kind of work during last week but 77 percent people are purely unemployed as they were not engaged any kind of work still now. Those persons who were found unemployed in the current week have several reasons to quit their job like low wage, lack of security etc. Most of the persons wanted to get any kind of job (86 percent), only 14 percent wanted to fixed on their earlier job. They have adopted different strategy for getting the job like wrote letter, applied in persons, friends and relatives, registered their name in Government employment exchange. Some persons tried to starts their own business.

23 percent of population remains unemployed during last six months, 5 percent persons remains unemployed during last one year, 9 percent persons remains unemployed during last two years and surprisingly 63 percent of the surveyed people remained unemployed during more than last two years. (Figure-2) The reasons behind their unsuccessfulness of their unemployed condition or the question arise here that why were they became unemployed? The fact which came out from the primary survey that 51 percent persons believe that due to scarcity of job in the area they are unable to find any job, 30 percent persons said that there are jobs but they did not have enough information about the available jobs, 7 percent persons said that they did not have the right skill to get any job whereas 9 percent persons said that due to lack of enough education they could not find any job still now. Rest of the people believes that low wage is the main factor behind unemployment of the many persons. (Figure-3) Primary survey tells that the expected lowest monthly income ranges between 2000 to 10000 rupees.

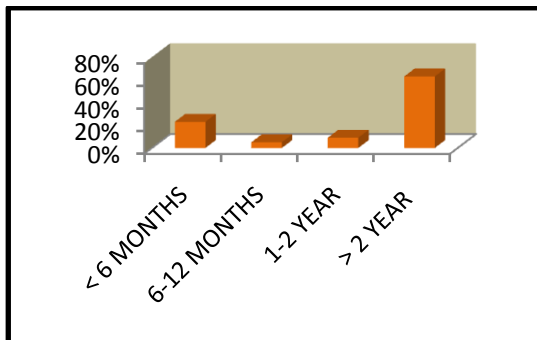


Figure: 2 Duration of Unemployment

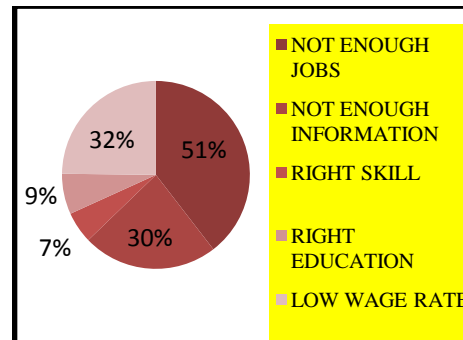


Figure: 3 Reasons of Unsuccessfulness

55 percent of people wanted to get job within small distance as they could travel in less time and 45 percent said that distance does not matter.

One surprising fact came out from the primary survey in the context of unemployment as concern is that only 35 percent of people have registered their name in the Government employment exchange. Another feature which indirectly related with this context that only 14 percent people have taken training from any institution to developed their abilities. Same picture came out in terms of extracurricular activities like computer knowledge, driving, and spoken English power etc by which they could enhanced their personal ability to get a job early. Though the area is belongs to rural area so only 25 percent people have computer knowledge which is a basic criteria now-a-days.

Unemployment is a burning problem in the society but people have some choice in job preference. Primary survey showed variety of jobs where people have tried to engaged like Government service, private job, business, jewellery making, electrical work, driving, software professional, photography, manual work etc. But most of them (52 percent) have no choice as they wanted to engage in any kind of work.

In this context of unemployment the question emerges that is how the unemployed persons have spent their time. Through analysis of the primary data the facts reveals that 16 percent people spend their time in searching job which is a good indication, 20 percent people spend time in the preparation of competitive examination. Rest of the people spend their time in many activities like watching television, listening music, reading books, household works, playing indoor and outdoor games etc.

One item which is directly related with present unemployed youth that is use of mobile phone. Primary survey reveals that 77 percent persons used mobile phone. 72 percent persons have spent less than 500 rupees whereas only 28 percent have spent more than 500 rupees per month for their personal expenditure. Despite the several efforts and planning taken by the state and central government it is surprising that nobody get unemployed allowance yet.

Among the different types of unemployment, primary survey reveals that 7 percent persons are open unemployed, 51 percent are educated unemployed, 21 percent are structurally unemployed and 14 percent falls in seasonal unemployment category. (Figure-4)

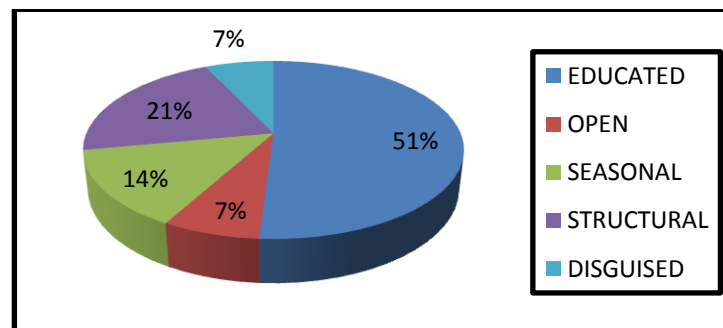


Figure: 4 Nature of unemployment

Educated unemployment rate is maximum because present education system does not produce such level of skills by which a person can make himself fit with any type of job. Wrong education system is responsible for that. Lack of technical education, training course programme, unwillingness of join in other format of jobs, lack of government initiatives leads the scenario more complex. In an economy where people tried to engage any work but unable to find any job is known as open unemployment. In the surveyed villages seasonal unemployment rate was also high(14 percent)Through the analysis of the primary data it is found that

main causes of unemployment are inadequate work, low economic development, wrong education system, rapid population growth, improper employment planning, unscientific agriculture etc.(Figure-5)

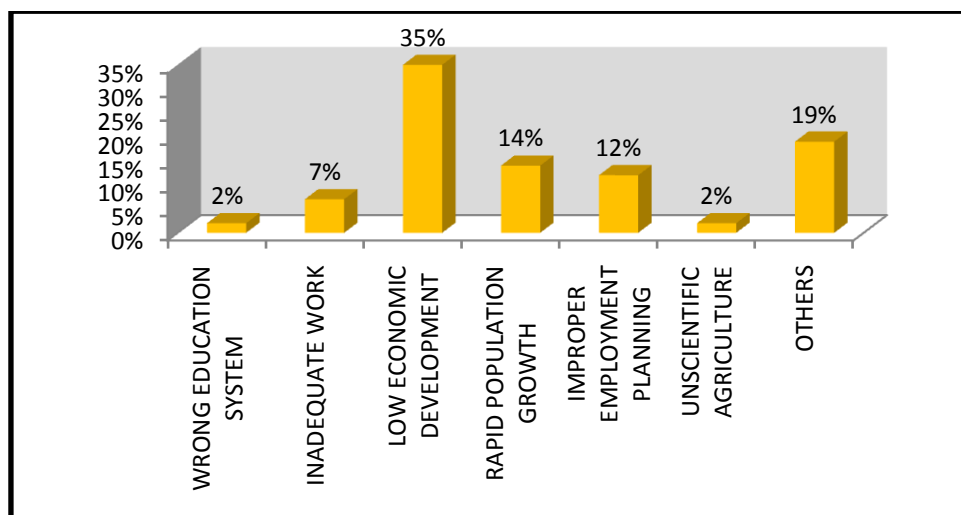


Figure: 5 Causes of Unemployment

From the analysis of the pattern of rural unemployment in Jangipara C.D block some suggestive measure could be recommended to overcome the problem of rural unemployment and improve the situation are as follows-

- Enhancement of work opportunities.
- Implementation of free education system in primary and secondary level.
- Controls of population growth.
- Proper implementation of 100 days programme in rural areas.
- More work should under MGNREGS.
- Change in traditional education system.
- Implementation of technical education.
- Rural industrialization mainly set up the agro based industries.
- Government initiatives.
- Rural works programmes, for Marginal farmers and agricultural labourers.

IX. MAJOR FINDINGS

The following findings have been brought out of the study:

- Long term youth unemployment tends to be common in rural areas of Jangipara C.D block of Serampur subdivision.
- Rural labour markets are characterized by low skilled and insecure employment. Demand for qualified workers tends to be low.
- With rural employment being concentrated in small firms of Jangipara block, opportunities for young people to undergo training or upgrade their skills are limited.
- Poor or costly transport frequently restricted young people's movement for employment opportunities living in distant places of Jangipara block.
- Income condition of the families of the unemployed youth's is poor. Income ranges in between 5000 and 10000 rupees per month.
- Most of the young people search job by getting information from their friends and relatives.
- Most of the young people remained unemployed for a long period.
- Majority of the respondents from young people of the study area believes that main reasons of their failure or unsuccessfulness to get job is due to lack of job opportunities in the area.
- Nature of unemployment in Jangipara block is mostly educated(51 percent) followed by structural unemployment(21 percent) and seasonal unemployment(14 percent)
- The main causes of youth unemployment in Jangipara block are rapid population growth, low economic development, the present education policy and education system.

X. SUGGESTED REMEDIAL MEASURES ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Based on field investigation the following measures have been suggested to combat the problem of youth unemployment mainly in rural areas:

- a. Appropriate macro policies are important for generating employment.
- b. Improvement in skill and vocational training are needed.
- c. It is urgent to reduce or control the growth rate of population.
- d. The area requires adopt the modern methods of Agriculture.
- e. It is necessary arrange special employment programme.
- f. Proper planning for utilization of Human resources is urgently suggested.

XI. CONCLUSION:

Jangipara C.D block is an underdeveloped area in Hugli district and youth unemployment is a burning issue now-a-days that not only population explosion is the main factor of unemployment but also other factors too have effects on unemployment. It is a kind of economic and social problem which persist both in urban and rural areas but their level and magnitude is slightly different. In rural areas of the study area the nature of youth unemployment is seasonal and structural. Youth unemployment problem affect the socio economic condition and livelihood pattern of both the unemployed young people as well as other members of the family. For various reasons youth unemployment rates are much higher than adult unemployment rates. In fact, unemployment may be a smaller problem for the youth because it typically is of shorter duration. Moreover youth may simply shift job more often because they are seeking for the right job. So that the higher unemployment rates are mainly for search of better job. It is a challenging task to tackle youth unemployment. However solutions are abundant: some are specific and applicable only to particular environment, others are more general and flexible, while some are more disputable and others are more widely accepted.

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