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EMPLOYMENT POLICIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN MIZORAM

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Abstract:

Manifesto is a public declaration of policy and aims, especially one issue before an election by a political party or a candidate. It can also be defined as a written statement of beliefs, aims and policies of a political party. Mizoram is facing a challenge of educated unemployment where educated youth on mass-scale are finding it hard to get job or even to run enterprise. Since recent years, the state has been facing the problems of mass-unemployment among the educated youths. According to Census Report 2011, Mizoram (91.3) hold third position in literacy percentage of the country just after Lakshadweep (91.8), but it is a fact that where the percentage of educated people is high, the educated people are burdened with unemployment problem. In this connection, the paper attempts to analyze how far political parties try to address the issues and problems of unemployment in the state. It focuses upon employment scenario of Mizoram; the paper tries to link the possibility of solving these problems with Party policies and manifestos.

Keywords: *Election, Manifestos, Employment, Political Parties*

Section I: Introduction

The paper is divided into five sections. Section I introduces the paper and highlights the concept of employment, unemployment and Youth in the context of Mizoram. Section II explains the employment scenario and its statistical record based on the record taken from Statistical Handbook of Mizoram and Census of India, Mizoram. Section III discusses the perspectives of Mizoram State Legislative Assembly Election 2018. Section IV analyzes the manifestos the political parties in the context of employment . Section V concludes the paper with suggestion.

According to Census of India 2011, workers pertain to two categories, such as, workers and marginal workers. Workers refer to those who have economic activity and who spent much of their time for their own economic activities. Marginal workers refer to those who work on part time but not on a permanent basis.ⁱ Apart from these two categories, non-workers comprise children's, students etc. The term employment refers

to the state of having paid workers National Sample Survey Organization (NSO) defines unemployment or unemployed persons as persons who are able and desiring to work, who seek job but remain jobless. Further, National Sample Survey Organization (NSO) defines that there are different types of Unemployment in India, such as-

1. Structural Unemployment: When demand for work falls short of the supply of labour force, this type of unemployment arises. Unemployment in India is basically of this category. Huge population is the main factor for emergence of this type of unemployment.

2. Under- Employment: Some people are employed, but their efficiency and capability are not utilized to the optimum level. This kind of employment is increasing due to cut throat competitions and people who are more qualified are also willing to do lower job to get job security. This is usually seen in the Public sector. This type of unemployment is the most commonly found unemployment in Mizoram.

3. Seasonal Unemployment: This occurs due to change in the demand and change in the seasons. Agriculture and agriculture related sectors experience this kind of unemployment. Indian Agriculture ensures employment for only 7-8 months and the agricultural labourers remain unemployed for the rest of the year.

4. Open Unemployment: When people who are willing to work and are capable to work cannot find any work, they come under this category. Educated unemployment and unskilled labour unemployment are of this kind. The increasing migration from rural to urban areas is the main cause for thisⁱⁱ.

According to National Youth Policy-2003, Youth are those aged between 13 and 35 years whereas National Youth Policy of 2014 defines youth as age between 15-29 years which comprise 27.5% of the population. At present, about 34% of India's Gross National Income (GNI) is contributed by the youth, aged 15-29 years. Approximately 600 million populations in India are younger than 25 years of age and close to 70% of the total population is less than 40 years of age. About 40% of the Indian population is aged between 13 to 35 years that is defined as youth according to the National Youth Policy.

Youth in the context of Mizo society, is regarded as the age between 18 to 40 years. Young Mizo Association (YMA) and Youth Fellowships of the different churches recognize person age between 18 and 40 years as the main criterion for enrolment of members.

Section II: Employment Scenario in Mizoram

The concept of national Employment service had come to Mizoram when Employment Exchange started functioning at Aizawl in 1958. With increase in the numbers of job seekers, especially among the college and school leavers, the need for employment exchange began. Vocational Guidance was started as an Unit at Aizawl in 1971. The scheme was to give guidance and counseling to youths and adults whoever seeks employment. In the same year, Employment Exchange office was opened for Lunglei District.ⁱⁱⁱ The under below given tables will exhibit the number of job seekers during the period of 1968-1972, it can be seen that the number are comparatively less with the latest registration.

Table No.1: Educated unemployed in Mizoram as on March 1973

SI No	Particulars	1968	1970	1972
1	No.of Registration	47	159	168
2	No.of Placement	-	16	2
3	No.on the the Live register	201	498	426
4	No.of Vacancies notified	1	27	9

Source: Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, 1974

Table No.2: Educated unemployed in Mizoram as on March 1973

SI No	Particulars	Male	Female	Total
1	Graduate and above	47	5	52
2	Matriculate and above	385	124	509
3	Calss VI to X	647	174	821

Source: ‘Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, 1974’ in Hrahsel Lalchhuanawma, “*Socio-Economic development & Planning in Mizoram: The Five Year Plan Periods*” published by Mizoram Statistical Agency, Aizawl, 2018.

The below given table has exhibited that the work participation rate has been declining from 2001 census to 2011 census. From 1971 up to 1991, work participation rate had been recorded above 45 percent. However, Census of India 2011 recorded that work participation rate in 2001 was 52.6 percent. But in 2011 work participation rate has come down to 44.4 percent.^{iv} It can be correlated that the increasing rate of literacy, increasing number of college and university graduate has been responsible for low rate of work participation. To respond this development, the state has no enough resources to absorb to all new generation, which eventually effects the increase on high rate of unemployment among youth.

Table No.3: Work Participation Rate (1971-2011)

SI No	YEAR	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers (main + Marginal)	Work participation rate
1	1971	1,51,619	-	1,51,619	45.61
2	1981	2,06,064	18,303	2,24,367	45.44
3	1991	2,90,317	47,028	3,37,345	48.91
4	2001	3,62,450	1,04,709	4,67,159	52.6
5	2011	Male – 2,63,305	27,435	2,90,740	52.4
		Female – 1,51,725	44,240	1,95,965	36.2
Total		4,15,030	71,675	4,86,705	44.4

Source: Hrahsel Lalchhuanawma, “*Mizoram Statistics 2014*”, S.B.Offset Printing Press, Dawrpui Aizawl, 2014.

Based on 2018 Statistical abstract, 2,05,160 people, which is 18.6 percent of the population of Mizoram, are actively engaged in farming and cultivation. There are 59,134 peoples who are government employee, which comprise regular employee, contract, muster roll and co-terminus workers. Number of Government employee comprises 5.38 percent of the population based on 2018 Statistical handbook.

Table No.4: Main Workers by category: 2018						
Sl No	Particulars	Total	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
1	Cultivators	2,02,514	80,916	39.9%	1,21,598	60 %
2	Agricultural Labourers	26,464	9,863	37.2%	16,601	62%
3	Household Industry Workers	5,459	2,350	43%	3,109	56.95%
4	Other workers	1,80,596	58,596	32.4%	1,22,000	67.5%

Table No.5: State Government Employees (2014)						
Sl No	Particulars	Total	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
1	Regular (Group A to D)	43,951	12,256	27.8%	31,695	72.1%
2	Muster Roll	7,494	1,958	26.12%	5,536	73.8%
3	Contract	1,426	671	47%	755	52.9%
4	Co-Terminus	6,263	3,233	51.6%	3,030	48.3%

Source: Hrahsel Lalchuanawma, "Socio-Economic Development & Planning in Mizoram: The Five Year Plan Periods" published by Mizoram Statistical Agency, Aizawl, 2018

Currently, there are 35,064 job seekers in Mizoram. Based on the table given below, it can be seen that 5724 graduates and 2556 post graduate degree holder remained unemployed. The number of Graduate degree holder are 5724, out of which 2,682 (46.8%) female, 3,042 (53.1%) are male. The numbers of unemployed Post Graduate degree holder are 2556, out of which 1412 (55.2%) female and 1144 (44.7%) are male.^v The table is self-explanatory and it highlights the clear-cut unemployment problem in the state which is the need of the hour. In fact, this problem is required to be addressed by the state government. Details of job seekers in Mizoram in 2018 is given in below table i.e. table No.7

Table No.7: Job Seekers In Mizoram: 2018						
Sl No	Particulars	Total	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
1	Unskilled	165	71	43%	94	56.9%
2	Class VI- IX	7,491	1,941	25.9%	5,550	74%
3	HSLC	7,289	3,154	43.2%	4,135	56.7%
4	Graduates (general & Hons)	5,724	2,682	46.8%	3,042	53.1%
5	Post Graduates	2,556	1,412	55.2%	1,144	44.7%
6	Hindi (Matric & Above)	753	583	77.4%	170	22.5%
7	Technical Grade	3,618	2,326	64%	1,292	35.7%
8	Others	7,468	2,667	35.7%	4,801	64.2%
9	Total	35,064	14,836	42.3%	20,228	57.6%

Source: Mizoram at Glance 2018, published by Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Planning & Programme Implementation department, Government of Mizoram.

Section III: Mizoram 2018 Election

On 28th November 2018, Mizoram faced its eighth State Legislative Assembly Election. The Indian National Congress (INC), the Mizo National Front (MNF), the Bharatya Janata Party (BJP), Zoram Peoples' Movement (ZPM) (Independent), Zoramthar, Natuional Peoples' Party (NPP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Peoples Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM), and independent candidates contested the election. There were 209 candidates in 40 constituencies; out of which, 84 were from national parties, 49 were from state parties, 13 were from registered unrecognized parties and 63 were independent candidates. Out of 209 candidates, 9 (4%) candidates were identified as having criminal case from their affidavit. 32 (15%) candidates declared their age to be between 25 to 40 years while 120 (57%) candidates have declared their age to be between 41 to 60 years. There were 56 candidates (27%) between the age of 61 and 80 years. One candidate, namely, Lalthanhawla declared his age to be above 80 years. 18 (9%) female candidates contested in the just concluded election. 60 (29%) candidates declared their educational qualification to be between 5th and 12th standard, while 142 (68%) candidates declared their educational qualification as graduate or above. The election result was declared on 11th December, 2018. MNF won majority by securing 26 seats whereas the ruling Congress party managed to get only 5 seats from the 32 seats of the previous term.. Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) won 8 seats and for the first time, the BJP, national party which has not yet opened its account in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, managed to get a solitary seat by achieving its maiden entry in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly.^{vi}

Section IV: Policies on Employment: Political Parties Manifestos

Indian National Congress (INC):

Indian National Congress (INC) professed in its manifesto for continuation of the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP). Under this programme, various steps will be taken up to provide employment to the youths in a wide-scale and to enable them to be self-reliant. It also they promised to provide Laptop every year to successful students of HSLC and above who do not have a stable and regular income.^{vii}

Zoram Peoples Movement (ZPM):

The ZPM promised to introduce incentives scheme to encourage competitive examination in the state. It also promised to initiate partnership of Polytechnic and industrial Training Institute (ITI) with Companies will to create more employment in the state. The party also promised to enhance technical education in the state by opening several technical institutions like, Medical College, Engineering College, Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing facility, facility for Consumer, progress in Electronics etc. In this connection, the party will also take the initiatives for the establishment of new institution which will offer certificate Course, Diploma Course and Degree Course for achievement of the above stated targets. It also promised to start Hand Holding policy, under which, the government will act as a guardian for those who do not have resources to start the career of their choice. Under this scheme, convergence measure will be taken to supervise different line department of the State Government. Job Counseling Centre will be opened, and linkages and networking website called, "May I Help You" will be open for public. Under this, Placement Officer will oversee the work and skill training programme will be taken up for job seekers in the state.^{viii}

Mizo National Front (MNF):

The MNF pledged to revise the work and functioning of the MPSC and Employment exchange so as to recruit the eligible, deserve candidate in recruitment. It also introduced its economic programme known as

Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP). It also promised to make reservation scheme for the candidates who have not government employee in the family. The MNF pledged to introduce Special Development Scheme to uplift local entrepreneurs both in urban and rural areas. MNF pledge to provide a support scheme called, “Men Power Development Scheme” to tap the potential of Mizo youth wherein the government will provide a platform for reaching out to their career destination.^{ix}

Bharatya Janata Party (BJP)::

The BJP intended to introduce career oriented vocational syllabus in Government and other institution which are under the Government affiliation. It also promised to provide Laptop to those who score letter marks in HSLC and HSSLC.^x

People Right To Information and Development Implementation Society of Mizoram Party (PRISM):

The PRISM promised to generate not less than 15,000 new job opportunities and to give an unemployment allowances from 2020. It also stressed that work permit will be made mandatory for job seekers who come from outside the state and taxes will be levied from their wages. It also stated that government will provide proper guidance and counseling to those who seek jobs outside the state, the same will be supervised by the State Authority. The state will also take the initiative for the installation of International Qualification Examination Centre and Visa processing Centre in the state. The PRISM promised to improve the working and functioning system of the Mizoram Public Service Commission. It also tried to introduce Coaching Centre in each district for candidates of the Union Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Commission examination. The Prism also promised to introduce placement agency for preparing young generation for their career particularly in the fields of Railway, Oil and natural gas extractions, airport, hydel project and industries.^{xi}

Section V: Conclusion

After examining the manifestos of different political parties which contested the 2018 Mizoram State Legislative Assembly election, it is found out that political parties generally highlighted their intentions to generate and provide employment scheme. However, no specific and precise policy is given in their policy and manifestos. They generalized it with other policies; and the focus of their manifesto was based on immediate needs of the people rather than long term policies on employment. Voting behavior is more or less determined by the consideration of “Sem Policy” (NLUP, SEDP). The problem of unemployment is not properly address by the manifestos of political parties which will eventually effect on highly literate state like Mizoram. Unless proper care is taken by political parties and government officials, the issue of unemployment will always remain in Mizo society. Therefore, political parties are expected to come up with long term socio-economic development policies in their manifestos in order to create employment facilities to the people in general and educated persons in particular.

End Notes

- ⁱ HrahseL Lalchhuanawma, “*Mizoram Statistics 2014*”, S.B. Offset Printing Press, Dawrpui Aizawl, 2014, p.128
- ⁱⁱ V.Gomathi (2016), *Challenges Faced by Educated Unemployed Youth in India*, Indian Journal of Business Research Vol- 5/ Issue: 1, pp.14-17
- ⁱⁱⁱ HrahseL Lalchhuanawma, “*Socio-Economic Development & Planning in Mizoram: The Five Year Plan Periods*” published by Mizoram Statistical Agency, Aizawl, 2018, pp.32-33
- ^{iv} Ibid p.44-45
- ^v *Mizoram at Glance 2018*, published by Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Planning & Programme Implementation department, Government of Mizoram, p.15
- ^{vi} *Mizoram Election Watch*, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADDR), Press Release, Mizoram Assembly Election 2018 on 22nd November, 2018, pp.14-21
- ^{vii} Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee, “Election Manifesto: 2018 MLA General Election”, *Manifesto, No 2 & 8*
- ^{viii} Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM), “Tobul, Ruangam leh Hlenchhuah a Tumte”, *Manifesto No. 2, 6 & 7*
- ^{ix} Mizo National Front, “Election Manifesto 2018”, *Manifesto No. 2 & 7*
- ^x Bharatiya Janata Party Mizoram Pradesh, “Hmathlir 2018”, *Manifesto No. 9 & 12*
- ^{xi} PRISM, “MLA Election Manifesto, 2018”, *Manifesto No. 2 (2A-2G)*

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