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EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT IN KERALA

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Abstract: This paper is about describing the present problem of educated unemployment in Kerala and the causes and effects of it and also pinpoint the various schemes adopted by government for solving it.

Educated Unemployment is a situation where a person cannot find a job suitable to his qualification. Sometimes educated people are underemployed or unemployed when qualification does not match the job. Though Kerala has achieved much progress with regard to the spread of education, she has not been able to solve the problem of unemployment, especially educated unemployment among both men and women.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the extend, causes and effects of educated unemployment in Kerala and also evaluate the policies and various schemes associated with it.

Index Terms – Literacy rate, Educated unemployment, Work participation rate etc

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a means of acquiring knowledge and developing skills essential for the creation of assets for both material and spiritual well being of individual and society. All nations therefore take it as a responsibility to impart education to its people to empower them for the task of wealth and asset creation for promotion of economic growth and development. Kerala is the first state in India to have achieved universal literacy. Besides the state is far ahead of the national objectives in the primary and secondary education and is striving for attaining international standards in Higher Education, Technical Education and Research. Though Kerala has achieved much progress with regard to the spread of education, she has not been able to solve the problem of unemployment, especially educated unemployment among both men and women. Do not change in header and footer that will set by ijcrt journal

LITERACY RATE IN KERALA

Literacy rate refers to the modern term including the ability to use language, numbers and other basic means to understand communicate and gain useful knowledge. According to 2021 census, Kerala has a 96.2% literacy (97.4% for Males & 95.2% for Females) compared to the National literacy rate of 77.7%. Kerala became the first Indian state to achieve 100% primary education through its Athulyam literacy programme. Besides it is the first Indian state to have ICT – enabled education with hi-tech classrooms in all public schools.

EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Educated Unemployment is a situation where a person cannot find a job suitable to his qualification. The youth aspires to get a permanent job, not work for a living. Therefore they wait for a better opportunity which creates a situation of high educated unemployment. Sometimes educated people are underemployed or unemployed when qualification does not match the job. Faulty education system, lack of employable skills, mass student turnout, and preference for white collar jobs are highly responsible for educated unemployment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the extend, causes and effects of Educated Unemployment in Kerala
- To analyze the limitations of our educational policy and also familiarize about the various schemes introduced associated with it.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is based on Secondary data. The Secondary data were collected from articles published in various journals, books, periodicals and websites. Information from literature on educated unemployment of Kerala and the causes and various schemes associated with it were also collected from various published sources and internet.

EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT IN KERALA

Kerala holds the record in India for the highest education in rates, with over one-fourth of the educated rural population and one fifth of the educated urban population left unemployed. The problem of unemployment in Kerala is primarily the problem of educated unemployment among both men and women. The educated unemployment is very serious and menacing problem. There are more women job seekers than men.

In Kerala female educated unemployment is higher than the male unemployment rate. Women may be highly educated than their male counterparts, but they are far behind in terms of workforce participation rate as well as wage levels. According to the various NSSO round reports, Kerala has the highest female unemployment rate in the country. The latest NSSO data for 2011-12 indicates that the “overall unemployment rate in Kerala is 6.7 with a wide gender gap of 14.1% for women and 2.9% for men”. There is a high disparity between wages too. Men casual labourers are paid almost double than their female counterparts in both urban and rural areas. The report shows that “Male employees earn higher average salary than females in almost all employment divisions. The sectoral distribution of employment in Kerala shows male dominance in all sectors”.

Thiruvananthapuram district has the highest number of unemployed, followed by kollam. The hilly district of Wayanad had the least number of unemployed. The problem is more serious among the educated that are unable to utilize their skill and knowledge which they have acquired for affecting qualitative changes in the economy and society. Similarly the unemployment rate among the young females is much higher than that of the young females. It has pointed out that women in the state are found to be well educated.

More than 60% of the total job seekers in Kerala are women, with most of them are well educated. It is also seen that the unemployment rate among the women job seekers is much higher than that among the male job seekers. Unemployment is still a baffling problem confronting the nation which retards economic development and creates vicious circle of poverty and social unrest.

CAUSES OF EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT IN KERALA

- **High rate of Population :** Educated Unemployment is directly proportional to the population of that country. When a country's population exceeds the carrying capacity of its environment as population increases number job seekers increases but the available job not proportionately increased resulting in unemployment.
- **Technological Growth :** The technological growth improves quality of product and and reduce costs but on the other hand it replaces a number of workers and employees from the industrial sector. So technology provides growth to the economy but at the same time reduces the chances of job opportunity. This is another reason for reduction in employment opportunity of educational youth.
- **Low Institutional and University Standards :** Our teaching methodology is sometimes extremely flawed. Outdated Curriculum, Inferior teaching resources, lack of basic infrastructure are the root cause of youth unemployment.

- **Lack of right skill and low salary :** Most of the youth are today lack the appropriate skills that a job specification requires them to have. Besides low salary has also been a cause of educated unemployment, especially in case of women.
- **Failure of the state in increasing production activities :** The state Kerala has very effectively been able to provide education to all, but has not invested so much in productive activities and this caused an increase in the number of young and educated people, but not many jobs to support them. Hence in Kerala workforce is fighting over limited jobs, which is represented by the high number of unemployed, as compared to the number of educated.
- **Educational Institutions :** Every year our educational institutions produce thousands of graduates and post graduates. These people refuse to undertaking any manual work.. Even agricultural graduates refuse to undertaking any manual work. Engineers prefer for government jobs rather than establishing their own industries. Hence our educational system need a drastic change, otherwise it will increase educated unemployment.
- **Negative Mindset for Self employment :** In Kerala, there is a lack of initiative for starting self employment enterprises due to the low social status and discouraging entrepreneurial climate prevailing in the state. The general mindset of an average educational youth is to get a government job.
- **Supply Demand Mismatch :** There is also a mismatch between the supply and demand of educated youth for the employment sectors. This is evident from the presence of a large number of unemployed engineers, technicians, managers and graduates of different disciplines. This supply-demand divide creates a section of jobless educated youth.
- **Pressure from Parents :** Another factor for increased unemployment is the pressure from parents. Educated Unemployment is generally a mismatch between the aspirations of graduates and employment opportunities available to them. In Kerala parents put his son after getting 95% in science stream in view to make him an engineer or a doctor. They hardly think what his child wants to study, what are his wishes.
- **Research and Development Initiative :** Another reason for educated unemployment is the lack of adequate research and development activities. Even though a number of research institutions related to agriculture and allied sectors in Kerala have been working but no perceptible results have yet been come out.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF KERALA

Though Kerala has achieved high educational development, the educational policy adopted here was not suited to the manpower requirement of Kerala. The educational policy of Kerala gave much importance to general education and not given due importance to professional and technical education and also ignored the need to introduce job oriented vocational course suited to Kerala.

The following are the drawbacks of educational policy pursued in Kerala

Firstly, the upgradation of the minimum qualification of a clerk from SSLC to graduation in universities, Kerala government secretariat and other autonomous bodies, graduation becomes a minimum requirement for those who aspire for a clerical job. As the colleges were not able to accommodate the growing number of students, the universities of Kerala and Calicut introduced private registration and this resulted in a mushroom growth of private parallel colleges in Kerala. It resulted in a large number of unemployed pre-degree holders, graduates and post-graduates.

Secondly, Kerala was not able to start adequate number of technical educational institution, like engineering colleges and ploytechnics, inspite of its high demand. Because of the lack of seats available in Kerala, a large number of students are forced to go to other states and seek admissions in engineering courses by paying huge amount as capitation fees.

Thirdly, Kerala has not been able to give high priority for the development of various disciplines of Medical education like Allopathy, Ayurveda and Homeopathy. Though there is high demand for these courses, due to lack of seats in Kerala, a large number of students seek admission in the private medical educational institutions in other states paying huge amount as capitation fees.

Fourthly, the basic defect of the educational system is its failure to introduce vocational courses to train people to start self employment ventures and promote migration to other parts of the country.

EFFECTS OF EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT IN KERALA

The following are the effects of Educated Unemployment in Kerala

- Educated Unemployment leads to emotional and mental stress
- It will lead to demoralized and can indulge in the habits like alcohol and drug, and even may commit suicide
- It leads to health problems like hyper tension, cardiac problems, depression etc
- As a result of it youth can also join anti social group like terrorist group etc
- It will lead to low economic growth of our economy
- Higher income inequalities and disparities leading to nothing but poverty
- The youth develop low self esteem or not being able to be a productive member of the society
- The growing unemployment especially educated unemployment has led to increased out migration of workers to other states within the country and abroad to the gulf countries

SCHEMES TO REDUCE EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT IN KERALA

- **PMRY (Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana)** : PMRY is implemented since 1993 and is designed to create and provide sustainable self-employment opportunities to one million educated unemployed youth including women in India during the 8th plan period. Under PMRY anyone who has received education till the 8th standard is eligible to apply for loans to start his/her venture. The age limit to apply for loan is 18-35 years.
- **KESRU (Kerala State Self-Employment Scheme for Registered Unemployed)** : It is a scheme introduced by Kerala government to promote self employment. This scheme implemented by employment exchanges to promote entrepreneurship among job seekers. This scheme provides for sanction of a bank loan upto Rs. 1,00,000 for unemployed persons to start a business.
- **SARANYA (Self Employment Scheme for the Destitute Women)** : It is introduced by the Kerala government for uplifting the most backward and segregated women especially widows, divorced, deserters, spinsters etc in the state. The women should be in the age group of 18 to 55 years and their annual family income should not exceed Rs, one lakh.
- **SGSY (Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana)** : It is a holistic approach towards poverty eradication in rural Kerala through creation of self employment opportunities . It aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas.
- **NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission)** : It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult member volunteers to do unskilled manual work.
- **Earn While You Learn** : One major problem that Kerala faces towards eradicating its unemployment problem is the inter-temporal issue of making a living versus learning a skill. In spite of the traditional 12+4 year method of schooling, Kerala needs to be a different stream where skills are taught to those who need them to earn a living.

- **Career Decision and Unemployment** : Career guidance helps people to understand the labour market and educational systems, and to relate this to what they know about themselves. It makes information about the labour market and educational opportunities more accessible by organizing it, systematizing it, and making it available when and where people need it. This means building career education into the curriculum.
- **Provides Job Oriented Education** : After 10+2 we should sit down and think what will be best for us. We can't find carpenters, shoe makers, tailors or even barbers in this queue of employment searchers. This shows the failure of modern educational system and insolvency of our policy makers. So if we want to solve the unemployment problem, the educational system must be made job oriented.
- **Other Solutions to Educated Unemployment**
 - I. Faster economic growth to generate more jobs.
 - II. Rapid Industrialisation
 - III. Improvements in education and training to youths with greater focus on vocational skills and self employment.
 - IV. Need of government support to struggling industries in order to save jobs.
 - V. Promoting education especially female education and also to motivate people to have small families.
 - VI. More focus on entrepreneurial, communication and inter-personnel skill development.
 - VII. Increased cross talk between public-private, formal/informal educational enterprises
 - VIII. Integrated counselling evaluation and career guidance initiatives

CONCLUSION

The increasing unemployment of the educated has prevented Kerala from reaping the full benefits of its educational development. It is argued that increase in government spending more on education leads to higher unemployment. It is also argued that instead of spending on education the state should now invest more in productive activities, which may result in employment creation. Solution to unemployment problem also requires improvement in the quality of education. The low quality education has contributed to the unemployment problem in the state by making many of the educated person's unemployable in today's changing job markets.

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