Public Opinion on Measures of Unemployment and its Impact with Special Reference to Chennai

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Abstract:

Unemployment is a term referring to individuals who are employable and seeking a job but is unable to find a job. Furthermore, it is those people in the workforce or pool of people who are available for work that does not have a job. Usually measured by the unemployment rate, which is dividing the number of unemployed people by the total number of people in the workforce, unemployment serves as one of the indicators of an economy's status. For the purpose of this study, descriptive research is used to portray accurately the public opinion on MEASURES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS IMPACT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHENNAI. Convenient sampling method is used to collect the samples. 1540 samples - sample size. Independent variables are gender, educational qualification and income. Dependent variables are effect, measurement of unemployment and if the public is bothered without a job. Independent sample t test, chi square and ANOVA are the research tools used in this research. The findings of this study suggest that unemployment is a major hinder for economic growth.

Keywords: *Unemployment, Job, Economy, Status, Poverty*

INTRODUCTION

One of the major hindrances in the growth of any country is unemployment. Unemployment is a serious issue in India. Lack of education, lack of employment opportunities and performance issues are some of the factors that lead to unemployment. The government of India must take effective steps to eliminate this problem.

One of the main problems faced by the developing countries is unemployment. It is not only one of the major obstacles in the country's economic growth but also has several other negative repercussions on the individual as well as the society as a whole.

Here is a look at the unemployment statistics in the country, the consequences of unemployment and the measures taken by the government to control it.

Unemployment: Statistics in India

The Ministry of Labour and Employment of India keeps the records of unemployment in the country. The measure of unemployment is calculated based on the number of people who had no work for a substantial amount of time during the 365 days preceding the date of collation of data and are still seeking employment.

India saw an average of 7.32 percent unemployment rate from 1983 to 2013 with a highest of 9.40 percent in the year 2009 a record low of 4.90 percent. In the year 2015-16, the unemployment rate shot up significantly with 8.7 per cent for women and 4.3 per cent for men.

Consequences of Unemployment

Unemployment leads to serious socio-economic issues. It does not only impact the individuals but society as a whole. Shared below are some of the major consequences of unemployment:

Increase in Poverty

It goes without saying that increase in unemployment rate results in increase in the rate of poverty in the country. Unemployment is largely responsible for hampering the economic growth of the country.

Government Initiatives to Reduce Unemployment

The government of India has taken several initiatives to reduce the problem of unemployment as well as to help the unemployed lot in the country. Some of these include the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Training for Self-Employment, Nehru Rozgar Yojna (NRY), Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Program (PMIUPEP) Development of Organized Sector, Employment Exchanges, Employment in Foreign Countries, Small and Cottage Industries, Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, to name a few.

Besides offering employment opportunities by way of these programs, the government is also sensitizing the importance of education and providing skill training to the unemployed people. Apart from this, many other similar programs have been launched to reduce unemployment.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the awareness about employment opportunities
- To empower young people to effectively transform their skills and preferences into employment
- To eliminate poverty level in India
- To elaborate the causes of unemployment in India
- To analyze the solutions to reduce the unemployment level in the economy.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The author examines the cause of unemployment in India in current market scenario. The findings of the author is that poverty is also one of the main reasons for unemployment.The paper also suggests and recommends some points to overcome this current situation of unemployment prevailing in India, (**Rubee Singh, 2018**). The author presents a detailed profile of the youth unemployment in Serampore 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, (**Sourav Das, March 2018**). The study attempts to find out the effect of economic growth on unemployment rate in India. Gross Domestic Product has been considered as an indicator of economic growth for the study. The data regarding GDP and unemployment rate have been collected from secondary sources like WorldBank database.It has been found that there is a strong negative correlation between economic growth and unemployment rate. Also, it was found that GDP accounts for 48% of cause of change in unemployment rate. The findings are in line with Okun's law and the conclusions of studies conducted in the past, (**Khem Chand, Rajesh 2018**). It is observed that the economically weaker states of the country have benefited maximum and have implemented the MGNREGA more vigorously. The study has shown that the raise in income could lead to increase in food consumption — both of cereals and non-cereals by all the categories of households. (**Vigneshwar V, Kirubagaran, 2018**). The purpose of this study to investigate the relation between economic growth and unemployment in Eastern European Countries for the period of 1992-2014 within panel data framework. In this paper this relationship has been
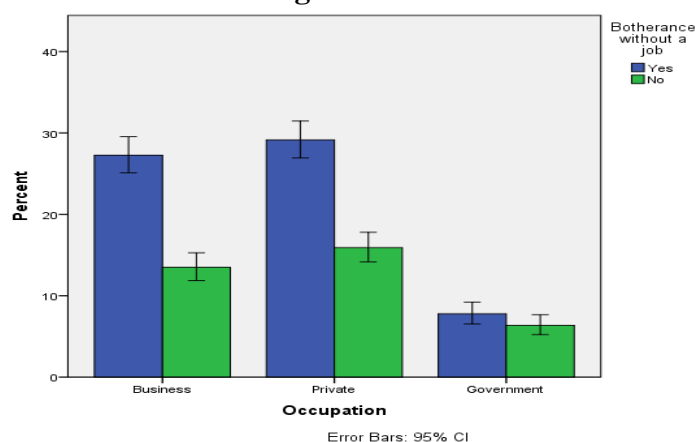
examined in the context of Okun's Law. Panel Unit Root, Pooled Panel OLS and Panel Johansen Cointegration tests are applied respectively, (**Özgür Bayram Soylu ,İsmail Çakmak ,Fatih Okur, 2017**). Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) was introduced in 2006 by the Government of India, with the objective of improving the livelihood security of the rural poor by providing guaranteed employment for 100 days. This paper analyses whether this scheme has been able to achieve the objective and looks into the question whether this scheme has caused development of the rural poor. The author has concluded the paper by suggesting appropriate changes which must be incorporated to achieve the object of the scheme effectively, (**Dheeraj R P, 2017**). This paper studies the effect of MGNREGA on the generation of employment, type of work done under this statute and up to what extent this programme is successful in poverty alleviation in rural India. Many researchers have found that this programme has a huge impact on the employment structure of rural India. The present paper studied and outlines the role of MGNREGA in enhancing the livelihood of poor rural people through twin incorporation of work with skill, (**Disha Sharma, 2017**). This paper provides a broad overview of the employment situation among graduates which is a major concern of government and their social partner throughout the region.With an object to understand the present situation of unemployment faced by the graduates and also to understand the various causes and consequences of the same, this research paper is presented as a case study of students of various faculties in Jalgaon City. The methodology used for this paper is primary data. The research has covered various problems and issues of a social issue – graduates' unemployment which include many aspects like health issues which affect physically as well as psychologically on students' life, lower economic growth, increased rate of crimes, and suicide as the last option after facing so many problems, (**Richa Modiyani, 2015**).

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this study, descriptive research is used to portray accurately the PUBLIC OPINION ON MEASURES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS IMPACT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHENNAI. Convenient sampling method is used to collect the samples. 1540 samples - sample size. Independent variables are gender, educational qualification and income.. Dependent variables are effect, measurement of unemployment and if the public is bothered without a job. Independent sample t test, chi square and ANOVA are the research tools used in this research.
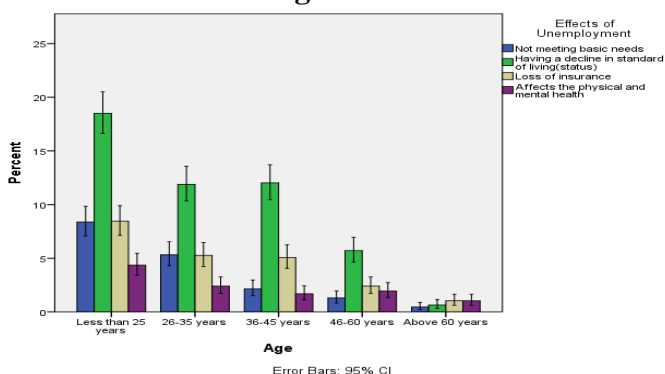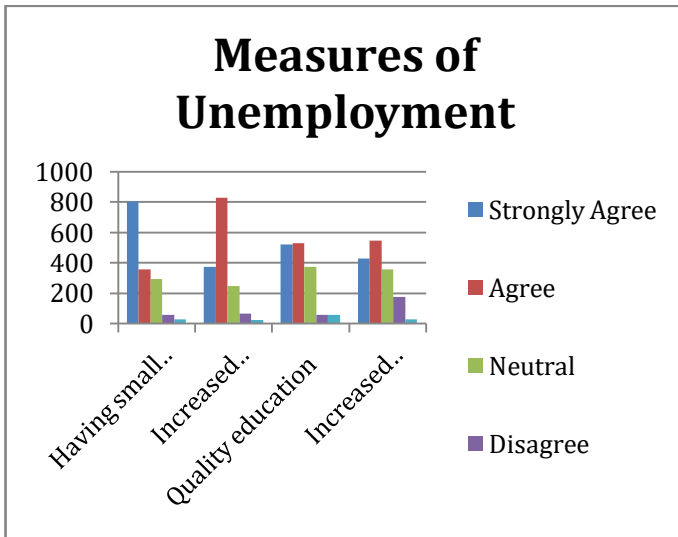
ANALYSIS

Figure 1

Error Bars: 95% CI

Legend: Bar Chart with error bars (Fig. 1) shows the relationship between opinion on whether respondents bother without job and occupation of the respondents.

Figure 2

Error Bars: 95% CI

Legend: Bar Chart with error bars (Fig. 2) shows the relationship between opinion on effects of unemployment and age of the respondents.

Figure 3

Legend: Bar chart shows the agreeability towards measures of unemployment such as having small families, increased opportunities in rural areas, quality education and increased production by the industries.

Null Hypothesis: There is significant association between males and females that they are bothered without a job

Table 1: Unemployment and Gender

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Male	803	1.32	.468	.017
Female	737	1.39	.489	.018

Table 2: Independent Samples t Test - Unemployment and Gender

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Independent Sample t test	2.912	1538	0.004

Legend: Table 1 and 2 shows the independent sample t test between unemployment and gender of the respondents.

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association among the educated people about the effects of unemployment

Table 3: Cross Tabulation – Effect of Unemployment and Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Effect of Unemployment				Total
	Not meeting basic needs	Having a decline in standard of living(status)	Loss of insurance	Affects the physical and mental health	
Primary	11	40	6	0	57
High School	22	183	70	6	281
Higher Secondary	70	183	63	60	376
Degree and above	151	309	170	107	737
Illiterate	17	36	33	3	89
Total	271	751	342	176	1540

Table 4: Chi-Square Tests - Effect of Unemployment and Educational Qualification

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1125.555	12	0.000

Legend: The table 3 shows the results of cross tabulation between the effect of unemployment and educational qualification. The table 4 shows the results of chi-square test between the effect of unemployment and educational qualification.

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association among the income groups about the measures that can reduce the unemployment level in the economy.

Table 5: ANOVA - Measures of Unemployment and Income

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Having small families	Between Groups	2.167	3	.722	.725	.037
	Within Groups	1529.823	1536	.996		
	Total	1531.990	1539			
Increased opportunities in rural areas	Between Groups	4.473	3	1.491	2.064	.036
	Within Groups	1109.612	1536	.722		
	Total	1114.085	1539			
Quality education	Between Groups	83.426	3	27.809	27.525	.000

	Within Groups	1551.847	1536	1.010		
	Total	1635.273	1539			
Increased production by the industries	Between Groups	122.155	3	40.718	40.417	.000
	Within Groups	1547.468	1536	1.007		
	Total	1669.623	1539			

Legend: The table 5 shows the ANOVA results for level of agreeability towards measures of unemployment among the income groups of the respondents.

RESULTS

- It has been observed that majority of the respondents responded that they bother if they don't have a job. But the difference between the levels of percentage is very high between the Government respondents and the other occupation respondents (Fig. 1)
- It has been found that majority of the respondents responded that they having a decline in the standard of living is the major effect of unemployment. It also indicates that impact of unemployment on inability to meet the basic needs reduces with increase in age. It is observed that impact of unemployment on physical and mental health of people decreases with increase in age. Overall it indicates that impact of unemployment on people is high on middle aged people and decreases with increase in age (Fig. 2).
- It has been found that majority of the respondents agree to all the mentioned measures of unemployment (Fig. 3)
- From the application of independent sample t-test it can be inferred that the 'p' value is less than 0.05. The expected count is 0.004, that is null hypothesis is rejected. There is significance difference between the opinion on males and females regarding botherance without a job (Table 1 and 2).

- From the application of Pearson Chi-Square, it can be inferred that the 'p' value is less than 0.05. The expected count is 0.00, that is null hypothesis is rejected. There is significance association among the educated people regarding the effect of unemployment. It was found that educated are aware of the effects of unemployment (Table 3 and 4).
- Since 'p' is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, it can be inferred that there is significant difference among the income groups about the measures that can reduce the unemployment level in the economy. It was found that the well income group of people thinks that the above mentioned measures could reduce the unemployment level in the economy (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

- The results showed that the levels of percentage are very high between the Government respondents and the other occupation respondents. This may be due to the respondents with Government job feel secured, even without a job. Those Government respondents may have more salary because of which they may have more savings. So, they would have thought that without the job also they may be secured. (Fig. 1)
- The result shows that impact of unemployment on people is high on middle aged people and decreases with increase in age. The aged people may not be bothered about unemployment since they have completed all their duties, but middle age persons may think they have more effect because of unemployment, since they are half way through their duties (Fig. 2).
- Majority of the respondents agreed towards the measures of unemployment because the respondents would have felt that one way or the other the mentioned measures may reduce the level of unemployment (Fig. 3).

- It has been observed that the opinion based on gender differs for opinion towards botherance without a job. This may be due to male being earning member for daily bread may be more concerned about a job than the female. This may be the reason for difference in opinion between male and female (Table 1 and 2).

- It has been found that there is association between opinion on effect of unemployment and the educational qualification of the respondent. The result also shows that majority of the opinion on effect of unemployment is decline in status given by graduates. This may be due to educated people are affected and face more problems due to unemployment (Table 3 and 4).

- It is found that level of agreeability towards measures of unemployment differs based on their income. This may be due to high income people think increase in production may reduce unemployment but low income groups may feel that small families or quality education may reduce unemployment. It may be because opinion differs based on their income (Table 5).

CONCLUSION

Unemployment is a serious issue for any economy. It creates negative effects to unemployed as they are jobless and suffer from worse prospects to find a new job and those who are employed feel less secure to keep their jobs in the future. However for overall development of the economy, government and individuals has to take initiative steps in increasing the productivity and improving the standard of living. Unemployment is the root cause of various problems in the society. While the government has taken initiatives to reduce this problem, the measures taken are not effective enough. The various factors causing this problem must be studied well to look for effective and integrated solutions for the same. It is time the government should recognize the sensitivity of the matter and take some serious steps to reduce it.

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