Abstract

India has a large number of unemployed people. This is true of the rural as well as urban fields. In urban fields, there are a large number of educated unemployed, and in the rural areas, this is true of all the categories of people. Per-capita income in rural areas, this is true of all the categories of people. Per capita income in rural areas and particularly those engaged in agriculture does not exceed a sum of Rs. 450 per annum. According to the report, Rural Agricultural Commission, Indian Agriculturalists are unemployed for about 6 months in a year. In rural areas, apart from the unemployed of the people, since months there are landless people who are unemployed. This number is about 10 to 50 crores. All these things go to prove that there is a good deal of unemployment in the rural areas. Since India is basically a country of villages, therefore unemployment is a serious evil of Rural Society. Because 80 percent India's total population live in villages and unemployment problem in India is basically rural by nature. Rural unemployment is on top of the unsolved problems of developing nations; so far there have been no significant developments towards its solution. The importance of the present work is to show the causes and effects of unemployment experienced in rural areas, and to give suggestions for its solution.

I. INTRODUCTION

Economic growth of a country depends upon the skills of its people and the application of knowledge, inherited or acquired by them. Optimum utilisation of human resources undoubtedly leads to considerable degree of economic development of a country. Unemployed human resources signify that a section of the society is without any source of income. Hence they experience misery and starvation. Generally unemployment means an economic active person without any employment. According to Karl Pibram,
“Unemployment is a condition of the labour market in which the supply of labour power is greater than the number of available openings.” As Gillin and Gillin define, “Unemployment is a condition in which a person is able and willing to work normally, dependent upon his earning to provide the necessities of life for himself and family is unable to obtain gainful employment.” India is an underdeveloped though a developing economy. The nature of unemployment, therefore, sharply differs from the one that prevails in industrially advanced countries. Lord Keynes attributes the cause of unemployment to a deficiency of effective demand. But in India unemployment is mainly due to the shortage of capital, the poor exploitation of natural resources and inadequate employment opportunities. That a large number of ruralites are forced to remain jobless in the rural areas is true beyond dispute.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Objectives of this paper are:

- To know about rural unemployment and its types
- To know the causes and consequence of rural unemployment
- To suggest some measures to remove rural unemployment

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data which is collected from various books, National & International journals and publications from various websites.

IV. TYPES OF RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

It is an indisputable fact that unemployment is found in its severest form in rural India. Broadly speaking, rural unemployment may broadly be classified into three categories namely: (a) open unemployment, (b) concealed or disguised unemployment, and (c) educated rural unemployment.

1. Open unemployment: So far as open unemployment is concerned; identification of the people without work is an easy task. Agriculture in the Indian context is a seasonal occupation and there is always a heavy demand for labour at the time of sowing, wedding and harvesting whereas in slack season, demand for labour falls considerably. The period of seasonal unemployment in India varies from state to state, depending upon the methods of farming, nature of soil and possibility of multiple cropping. In rained agriculture farmers remain unemployed for four or six months in a year. Because of illiteracy, poverty and poor health they are unable to avail some alternative employment opportunity during this period.

2. Concealed unemployment: In concealed unemployment, it is difficult to identify an unemployed person. This type of unemployment is also named disguised unemployment. According to the U. N. Committee of Experts, “The disguisedly unemployed are those persons who work on their own account and who are too numerous relatively to resources with which they work, so that if a number of them were withdrawn to work in other sectors of the economy, the total output of the sector from which they were withdrawn would not be
diminished even though no significant reorganisation occurred in this sector.” Disguised unemployment in rural India is 25 per cent to 30 per cent. It is mostly prevalent among marginal and small farmers. Here we use the productivity criterion to measure the extent and degree of unemployment.

3. Educated rural unemployment: The problem of unemployment among the educated rural youth is another major area of concern. The spread of education has created many unemployed young persons who are in search of jobs. But there is no job in the labour market for them. This sort of unemployment leads to very tragic consequences. It breeds frustration among some and discontent among others.

V. CAUSES OF RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The major causes responsible for rural unemployment are discussed below:

i.) Rapid growth of population: In India the population is crossing all bounds. It is accepted that within 20 years or so the population of this country shall have doubled. At this rate of increase in population, no country can guarantee full employment to its hands. This is truer of the rural areas where avenues of employment are limited. Programmes of family planning attempts to restrict the increase in population have so far not yielded the desired results. This does not work well for the country.

ii.) Limited land and great pressure on land: India has a limited area of agricultural land. Attempt is being made to break the barren land and bring greater area under the orbit of the agriculture. In spite of it the rapid increase in population has so far failed all the attempts of the Govt. To provide proper agricultural land to all those persons who do not have land. Apart from this there is greater pressure on the land. In rural areas most of the people depend on land for their livelihood. This creates the situation of unemployment for a large number of persons in the rural areas.

iii.) Seasonal nature of agriculture: Agriculture in India is a seasonal affair. It keeps the people engaged only for a few months. After sometime the farmer have nothing to do. There is a season for sowing and harvesting. After that the farmers have no job. During this period they remain unemployed and without job. This has adverse effect on the earning of the people and the standard of living.

iv.) Too much dependence on nature: Agriculture in India depends too much on nature particularly for irrigation. If there is lack of such at the proper moment, the crop gets a set back. If there is inclement weather at the time of harvesting, the agriculture again gets a set back. All these factors create problems of unemployment.

v.) Traditional method of cultivation: Traditional method of cultivation adopted by the Indian farmer is unscientific and obsolete. Lack of improved methods of farming as well as absence of skilled labour hampers agricultural output. Aversion to the use of fertiliser, lack of adequate irrigation facilities and lack of capital to procure modern agricultural tools, seeds and manures affect agricultural produce. As a result rural agriculture loses employment potentiality.
vi.) **Lack of education and ignorance about scientific and modern means of agriculture:** Agricultural people are not educated. Due to lack of education, they are not able to utilise their energy in proper manner. Apart from it they are not able to know about the scientific and modern methods of agriculture. This makes their task cumbersome and time consuming. This has also an adverse effect on employment position which requires rethinking and reconsideration.

vii.) **Lack of adequate means of irrigation:** We have just now seen that agriculture in India very much depends on nature. There are no adequate means of irrigation. Whatever means existing are hardly sufficient to provide water to all the fields. Because of dearth of irrigation facilities the agricultural yield is not at all sufficient to help the agriculturist to liverespectably. It also has an adverse effect on employment position which in its turn has an adverse effect on the standard of living.

viii.) **Small holdings and fragmentation of land:** Agriculture in India is disorganised. We have already talked about the dearth of irrigation facilities, too much of dependence on nature and other factors. The holdings are small and they are scattered and fragmented. Because of these drawbacks, the agricultural product is not at all sufficient for the people who depend who depend on it. Apart from it the agricultural out put is not commensurate with the labour that is spent on it. This has an adverse effect on the employment position. It also adds to the poverty of the village.

VI. CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of rural unemployment though less perceptible than urban unemployment, nevertheless, have significant implications for the rural society.

i.) Open and disguised unemployment in rural areas lead to huge wastage of human resources. This could have been utilised for the purpose of economic development of the country.

ii.) Increase in the number of the unemployed increases pressure on land and other scarce natural resources. In the absence of gainful industrial activity in rural areas more and more people fall back upon agricultural activities. This results in further sub-division of already tiny sized holding. This adversely affects agricultural productivity.

iii.) The unemployed persons in rural areas are unproductive consumers. They merely consume without any contribution to production. In the process they eat away resources which would have been mobilized for capital formation in rural sector.

iv.) Absence of employment opportunities in rural sector forces people to migrate to cities in search of jobs.

v.) Migratory population crowds the cities. Slums grow rapidly. Environment gets polluted and cities become dens of vices.

vi.) Another consequence of rising unemployment is increase in the number of crimes in the rural sector. In the past rural life was mostly peaceful but along with the increase in unemployment, criminal activities have registered a sharp increase and rural peaceful
atmosphere has been considerably destroyed. Cases of drug abuse and drug pedalling unknown in the past have also increased. This has further aggravated rural unrest.

vii.) Unemployment affects the social status, personal life and sentiments of the unemployed person. It weakens his ambition, blunts his endeavour, saps his self-respect, shatters his hopes and generates guilt that he is failing to provide care and support to his family. Prolonged unemployment makes him either a delinquent or an antisocial.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

Unemployment rate in India rose to 4.9% in 2013-14, mainly on account of increase in joblessness in rural areas despite the government's flagship employment scheme MGNREGA. According to the latest survey report by Labour Bureau, a wing of Labour Ministry, the unemployment rate inched up to 4.9% at all India level last fiscal, from 4.7% in 2012-13.

The following measures should be adopted for removing rural unemployment:-

1. **Improvement in the agricultural system:**
   
   (a) In order to improve the system of agriculture, steps should be taken to put an end to uneconomic holdings and to prevent the further sub-division of land into even smaller pieces. The scattered portions of land should be consolidated.
   
   (b) The prevailing methods of agriculture do not exploit the natural resources to the fullest extent of their potentiality. The method of intensive cultivation will have to be adopted.
   
   (c) Good seeds, proper tools and adequate manure should be provided to the farmers to boost agricultural production.
   
   (e) There should be rotation of crops so that employment can be provided to the ruralites for a longer period.

2. **Rainfall in the country is most uncertain:**

   Again it is confined to a few monsoon months in a year. This accounts for uncertainty in agricultural employment. To remove this uncertainty additional irrigation facility in the form of minor and major irrigation projects should be provided so that the farmers may adopt multiple cropping and remain busy throughout the year.

3. **Increasing the cultivable land:**

   Steps should be taken to convert barren land into fertile land by scientific methods. Again it is through the scientific methods sandy and rocky land and even marshes and grass lands can be converted into cultivable farm lands.

4. **Development of subsidiary industries:**

   Improvement in agriculture, not supplemented by any other corrective measures, cannot provide employment to the increasing population. The peasant should also get some gainful employment during that period of the year when he is not engaged in cultivation. In order to provide employment to all such people in off-season, some subsidiary occupations such as dairy farming, poultry farming, horticulture, bee keeping, furniture making, weaving baskets and ropes etc. should also be developed. For this purpose, they should be provided with adequate finance.
5. Small scale, labour-intensive industries should be set up to provide employment to surplus rural labour force. These industries should take into account the needs and resources of the rural areas. Furthermore, there should be rural industrialization in big villages in the shape of the establishment of large-scale industries. The local labour as well as other resources should be utilized to develop these industries.

6. Public construction:
The unemployed ruralites can be provided with work by engaging them in public construction like constructing roads, digging tanks etc. These works should be started only in areas where people are without any work.

7. Minimum need programme:
Minimum need programme should be undertaken in the rural areas. This covers the provision of rural housing, water supply, primary health care, primary education etc. Besides providing employment, such a programme will improve the socio-economic health of the rural society.

8. Arrangement for transport of labour:
In order to provide employment to the rural people arrangement should be made for transport of labour from the areas of thick population to the areas where the density is comparatively less.

9. Organisation of agriculture market:
Favourable conditions for marketing agricultural produce will alleviate the problem of agricultural unemployment. The organisation of the agricultural market will increase the income of the cultivator. As a result, the problem relating to rural unemployment will be mitigated to a great extent.

10. Controlling the growth of population:
Efforts should be made to check population explosion so that whatsoever is produced can be available to the existing population and industrial sector can be in a position to give employment to the surplus rural labour. This is how serious problem of rural unemployment will be tackled to a remarkable extent. In fine, the monster of rural unemployment must be attacked on all fronts and all avenues of gainful occupation must be explored. But it seems to us that side by side with all these efforts, if an effective check is not put on India’s ever growing population, no solution to rural unemployment can be effectively implemented.

VIII. CONCLUSION
Employment is an important aspect for economic development. Rising unemployment and underemployment are two crucial problems that many developing economies countenance. The problem of unemployment has serious socioeconomic implications. While at the individual level, unemployment leads to malnutrition, illness, mental stress, depression, and deterioration of human values; at the level of the economy it implies unterutilization of existing human capital. For this reason, wherever there is rural unemployment, the reasons for it must be identified and suggestions for solutions to these problems must be developed.
IX. REFERENCES


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