

QUALIFICATION OF THE EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED IN RURAL PUNJAB

Anupreet Kaur Mavi

Researcher

E-mail: anumavi75@yahoo.com

Abstract: Education and appropriate skill have the potential to generate demographic dividend from the population of the nation/state. The importance of education notwithstanding, the educational scenario in Punjab is not very encouraging. The researcher thus found it imperative to analyse the educational qualifications of educated unemployed rural youth in Punjab. The main objectives of the study are: to analyse the educational qualification attained by the unemployed youth in rural Punjab, and to assess the proportion of educated unemployed youth in rural Punjab holding some kind of professional/Technical diploma/degree. The primary data was collected using multi-stage stratified sampling technique wherein three districts were chosen on the basis of literacy criterion from the state Punjab. The districts were grouped into three on the basis of literacy rates and one district was chosen from each group representing high literacy rate group(chosen district is Rupnagar with 57.11 per cent literacy rate), medium literacy group(chosen district is Amritsar with 47.39 per cent literacy rate) and from the low literacy rate (chosen district is Bathinda with 35.92 per cent literacy rate). Final selection of respondents from the selected households having matriculate and above educated members in the 18-35 years age group was done on a random basis. It was concluded that students somehow want to prolong their studies if they fail to secure a job of their liking. This is cited as one of the major reasons why more and more students seek higher education in spite of them being aware of wide spread unemployment amongst the educated. Moreover, at present our educational institutions have become more of huge factories producing graduates and post-graduates with not many opportunities for training in work situations.

Keywords: educated, unemployed, Punjab, Qualifications.

1.0 Introduction:

Education is one of the most important factors in not only the growth and development of an economy, but also a crucial factor in the creation of civil society. It creates knowledgeable, skilled and trained human beings who have the potential to better organise their social and economic environment thereby enhance productivity. Education and appropriate skill have the potential to generate demographic dividend from the population of the nation/state. The momentum in growth of any economy is dependent on the quantity and quality of educational resources. Many authors (Haddad et al,1990, Oshima, 1986, Krishan,1986 and Schultz,1988) have supported the fact that sustainable economic growth is promoted by the quality of human resources; even establishing the fact that there is a strong organic link between the education of farmers and their productivity.

The importance of education notwithstanding, the educational scenario in Punjab is not very encouraging. In the past thirty years, the literacy tempo in Punjab has not gained momentum, what to discern about the status of education in the state, more so in rural areas of Punjab (Table 1.1). As is clear from the following table, the literacy patterns are quite unique exhibiting the overall power structure of the society. Even a cursory look at the literacy rates of Punjab will certainly elaborate upon the lack of interest planners and the government in making education its priority.

	1971	1981	1991	2001
Rural Literacy				
Person	27.60	35.20	52.77	65.16
Male	34.55	41.91	60.73	71.70
Female	19.58	27.63	43.85	57.90
Urban Literacy				
Person	48.10	55.63	72.08	79.13

Male	54.40	60.73	77.26	82.97
Female	40.80	49.72	66.13	74.63

Note: 7 years and above.

Source: Statistical Abstract of Punjab(various issues)

The economic development of a state is further jeopardised with increase in unemployment amongst the educated youth which is currently becoming a serious problem in Punjab especially among the educated youth of rural Punjab. The researcher thus found it imperative to analyse the educational qualifications of educated unemployed rural youth in Punjab.

2.0 Objectives of the Study Are:

- I. To analyse the educational qualification attained by the unemployed youth in rural Punjab.
- II. To assess the proportion of educated unemployed youth in rural Punjab holding some kind of professional/Technical diploma/degree.

3.0 Methodology:

The primary data was collected using multi-stage stratified sampling technique wherein three districts were chosen on the basis of literacy criterion from the state Punjab. The districts were grouped into three on the basis of literacy rates and one district was chosen from each group representing high literacy rate group(chosen district is Rupnagar with 57.11 per cent literacy rate), medium literacy group(chosen district is Amritsar with 47.39 per cent literacy rate) and from the low literacy rate (chosen district is Bathinda with 35.92 per cent literacy rate). Final selection of respondents from the selected households having matriculate and above educated members in the 18-35 years age group was done on a random basis.

4.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The problem of unemployment has always been of great significance to the government and planners. It has been a matter which has been well probed by organisations and individual researchers from time to time. Many researchers have considered the educational system as the main cause of the problem of unemployment, while some others consider the economic system as the prime cause of the problem of educated unemployment. The definition of educated unemployed'' as gathered from the various thinkers' viewpoint is the state of joblessness among the 'matriculates and above' qualified individuals.

The phenomenon is extremely dangerous to the manpower as it is economically wasteful involving large infructuous expenditure in education as well as further training. It is not only economic burden, but also causes sufferance to individuals through humiliation to its 'victims'. Non availability of appropriate jobs also leads to foreign migration of skilled manpower or at times even creates militants from among the 'jobless' educated youth, making him move away from the productive channel of the economy to becoming a potential danger to the nation/state. Thus, it can be said with strong evidence from various studies(like a Punjab Planning Board Study on "Employment and Manpower, 1978; Krishan,1986 and IAMR,2003) that educated unemployment is a serious and rapidly growing problem in the state of Punjab in general, and rural Punjab in particular.

Thus, an attempt has been made by the researcher to analyse this socio-economic problem of educated unemployed youth in rural Punjab to understand the crux of the issue from the grassroot level by first of all analysing the type of educational qualification attained by the youth in rural Punjab by collecting data from the sampled respondents. The data so generated was analysed further by classifying into the following categories: under graduates, graduates, post-graduates and doctorate; professional degree or diploma holders. It was observed (Table 1.1) that 37.11 percent of those surveyed were under graduates; with Rupnagar district having the highest percentage of under-graduates(46.77 per cent); followed by Bathinda district(38.09), and Amritsar district with just 23.26 percent of under graduates among the surveyed respondents. Studies by various individual researchers and organisations (Krishan,1986, Rao and Singh,1989 and IAMR,2003) support the fact that unemployment in rural Punjab is predominantly the unemployment of the educated persons. Though a well-known and empirically proven fact that education is imperative for better quality of jobs, yet there has been a devaluation of education along with its expansion. Jayaram(1984) has termed the upgradation of minimum qualification criterion as 'qualification escalation' which has led to phenomenal changes in the job market. Looking back into its history, a clerical job

could be availed of easily with acquiring the minimum requirement of qualification i.e., matriculation. But, in order to enhance the probability of ensuring a clerical job, individuals tend to go in for higher and higher level of qualification.

The above situation is empirically also proven for the educated unemployed in rural Punjab wherein 109 respondents (28.68 per cent) of the respondents held a graduation degree and among these 74 were male (28.03 per cent) and 35 females (30.17 per cent). Although district Bathinda was one of the least literate districts, it had the maximum number of graduates i.e.,124 respondents (32.26 per cent), followed by Amritsar district with 36 respondents (26.52 per cent)and Rupnagar district had 33 respondents (26.61 per cent). It is also revealed from Table 1.1 that 20 respondents (05.26 per cent) were post-graduates and a larger majority of them, i.e., 17 respondents (12.88 per cent) were post-graduates from district Amritsar; 1 respondent (0.81 per cent); and 2 respondents from Rupnagar district (1.61 per cent).

Table 1.1: Educational Qualification level of the Educated Unemployed in Rural Punjab

District/ State	Total Respondents			Under Graduates			Graduates			Post-Graduates		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
Bathinda	124	82	42	47 (37.90)	31 (37.80)	16 (38.09)	40 (32.26)	26 (31.71)	14 (33.33)	01 (0.81)	01 (1.22)	--
Amritsar	132	89	43	36 (27.27)	26 (29.21)	10 (23.26)	36 (26.52)	22 (24.72)	14 (32.56)	17 (12.88)	11 (12.36)	06 (13.95)
Rupnagar	124	93	31	58 (46.77)	40 (43.01)	18 (58.06)	33 (26.61)	26 (27.96)	07 (22.58)	02 (1.61)	02 (2.15)	--
Punjab	380	264	116	140 (37.11)	97 (36.74)	34 (37.93)	109 (28.68)	74 (28.03)	35 (30.17)	20 (5.26)	14 (5.30)	06 (2.17)

Source: Primary Survey

As regards the technical or professional degree holders, the position of districts of Bathinda and Amritsar districts was almost equivalent in a term of number of respondents holding B.Ed./ J.B.T./E.T.T. degree or a Technical degree or Diploma, there were 65(17.11 per cent), 27(07.11 per cent) and 17(04.47 per cent) such respondents respectively. In Amritsar District there were 25 respondents (18.94 per cent) possessing a B.Ed./J.B.T./E.T.T. degree followed by Bathinda district with 23 respondents (18.55 per cent) and finally by Rupnagar district with 17 respondents (13.71 per cent) out of a total of 65 respondents (17.11 per cent) with the above-mentioned degree.

Table 1.1: Professional Degree/Diploma Holders Among the Surveyed Educated Unemployed in Rural Punjab

District/ State	Total Respondents			B.Ed/ J.B.T/E.T.T			Tech Diploma holder			Tech Degree Holder		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
Bathinda	124	82	42	23 (18.55)	14 (17.07)	09 (21.43)	07 (05.65)	05 (06.09)	02 (04.76)	05 (14.03)	04 (04.88)	01 (02.38)
Amritsar	132	89	43	25 (18.94)	15 (16.85)	10 (23.26)	09 (06.82)	06 (06.74)	03 (06.98)	09 (06.82)	09 (10.11)	--
Rupnagar	124	93	31	17 (13.71)	12 (12.90)	05 (16.13)	11 (18.87)	10 (11.36)	01 (03.23)	03 (02.42)	03 (03.22)	--
Punjab	380	264	116	65 (17.11)	41 (15.53)	24 (20.69)	27 (07.11)	21 (07.95)	06 (05.17)	17 (04.47)	16 (06.06)	01 (00.86)

Source: Primary Survey

So far as respondents with technical diploma were concerned, nearly 27 (07.11) such respondents were among those surveyed by the researcher, of whom 07(05.65 per cent), 09 (06.82 per cent) and 11 respondents (02.38 per cent) were from Bathinda, Amritsar and Rupnagar districts respectively. Technical degree holders were as few as 17(04.47 per cent) in total among those surveyed, out of which, 05 (14.03 per cent), 09 (06.82 per cent) and 03 (02.42 per cent) belonged to Bathinda, Amritsar and Rupnagar districts respectively. The essential qualification for entering into a diploma course is matriculation wherein selection into a particular trade is based on merit in the entrance test conducted for this purpose. It was observed during the survey; however, that majority of the technical diploma holder respondents acquired a graduation degree (arts) after the completion of the diploma. This phenomenon portrayed a shift from technical stream of education to general education.

5.0 Conclusions:

All the above facts imply that students somehow want to prolong their studies if they fail to secure a job of their liking. This is cited as one of the major reasons why more and more students seek higher education in spite of them being aware of wide spread unemployment amongst the educated. Moreover, at present our educational institutions have become more of huge factories producing graduates and post-graduates with not many opportunities for training in work situations.

6.0 References

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