

Unemployment among Educated Youth in Mizoram: A Way Forward

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Abstract

Every society is faced with serious social, economic and political problems, which need systemic, intelligent researching about their causes and also for finding out their remedies. The problem of unemployment is common to all the countries of the world, whether developed, underdeveloped or developing. According to Rajan Panel Report 2013, Mizoram has been ranked as a relatively developed state in north east India. At the same time, the problem of unemployment has been increasing over the years in the state particularly among the educated youth which will create big problem in future, if adequate steps are not taken. This paper makes an attempt to study the problems and challenges of unemployment among educated youth in the state of Mizoram by using secondary source.

Therefore, in order to address the issue of unemployment, the author's collectively put the ideas for initiatives revolve around three main platforms. They are providing need based education, providing self employment support and providing publicity for the various issues which can go a long way towards solving the problem. Finally, the paper tries to give suggestions in order to solve the above mentioned problem.

Key Words: Unemployment, Educated youth, Policies, Programmes.

Introduction

Globally, there are many young people ever than before, 1.3 billion of them living in developing countries. The global financial crisis and economic downturn which has resulted in the largest cohort ever of unemployed young people around the world, with 80.7 million young people struggling to find work in 2009. In the period from 2007 to 2009, the crisis

also produced the largest ever annual increase in the global growth unemployment rate from 11.9% to 13% economic crisis have doubled youth rates in countries such as Greece and Spain. Around half of young potential labour force entrants were unemployed in South Africa in 2011. However, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 -24 has risen substantially across many of the G20 countries such as France, Italy, Spain,

U.K and U.S. In the Middle East and North Africa, the economic growth rate in 2013 proved too low to generate sufficient employment opportunities for a fast growing population, and unemployment remained the highest in the world. In Sub – Sahara Africa, paid employment opportunities are scarce and the vulnerable employment rate, at 77.4 percent in 2013, remained the highest of all regions.

According to ILO report, more than 200 million people were unemployed globally in which nearly 75 million young people are unemployed in the world today and the global youth unemployment rate is 12.7% in 2012 and the ILO projects that it is to rise to 12.9% by 2017. In its annual *Global Employment Trends* report, issued recently, the ILO estimated that 201.8 million people were jobless in 2013; it went up by nearly 5 million in a year. Youth were the biggest casualties, with 74.5 million people aged 15- 24 unemployed in 2013, an increase of more than 7, 00,000. There was a staggering 37.1 million fewer young people in unemployment in 2013 than in 2007. International Monetary Fund forecasts of global economic and growth increasing to 3.6 % in 2014, from 2.9 % in 2013, the ILO said the unemployment toll would reach 215 million by 2018 *should a sustainable economic recovery fail to materialize once again*. However, that number would rise to 220 million.

Our country is facing many problems but one of the serious problems is

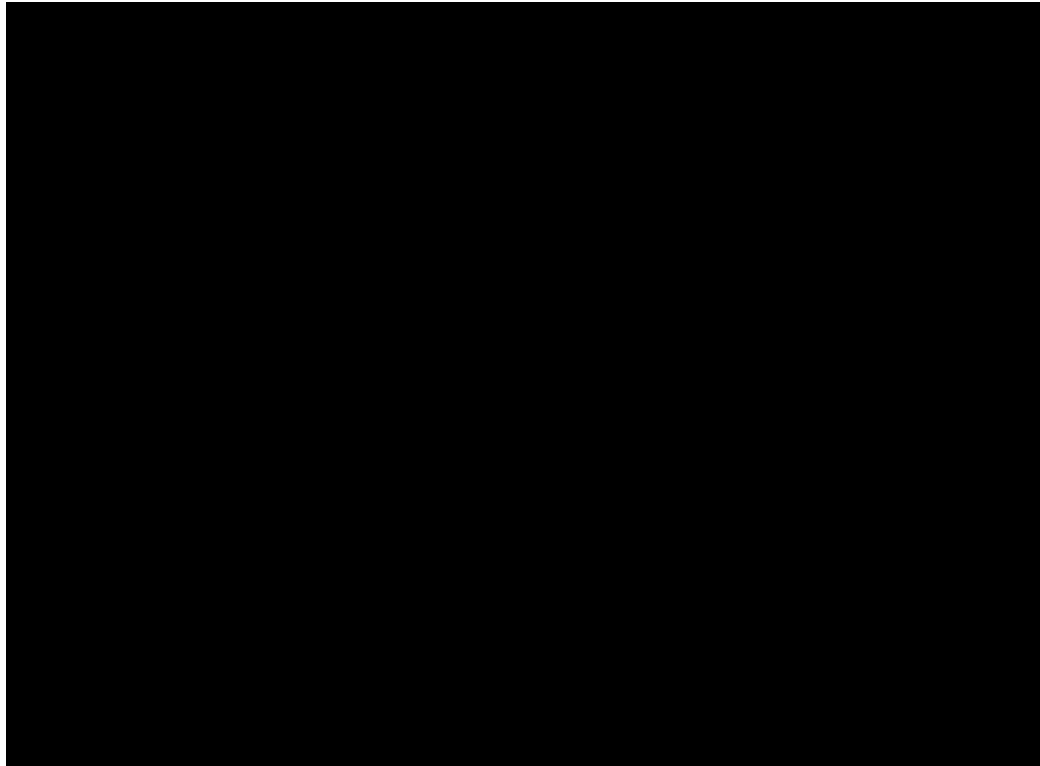
unemployment. The unemployed rate is between age group 15- 29 years has been increased since 2009- 2010. According to the Global Employment Trends, 2014 the unemployment rate has been raised to 3.8%, last year it was 3.7%. The ILO recent report estimated that India has shown rise in the unemployment in the last two years mainly due to more population which is 1.20 billion next to China, which increases the unemployment rate day- by- day.

According to Labor Bureau of Chandigarh, a survey reported that one out of every three persons in the age group from 15 to 29 years who have completed their graduation has been found to be unemployed. The report on “Youth Employment –Unemployment scenario, 2012-13 shows the unemployment rate among illiterate youth is lower than educated youth. Based on the survey, the labour force participation rate was estimated to be 31.2, 47.3 and 39.5 percent respectively among age groups 15-24, 18-29 and unemployment rate in the age group of 15-29 years stood at 13.3 percent in rural areas, the unemployment rate for graduates and above the age group.

The list below is compiled from the NSS (66th round) Report from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI. Data is unavailable for NE and Smaller states. Among the Indian states employment for the youth in rural areas were highest in Kerala followed by Assam and Odisha. In urban India, the unemployment rate was highest

in Kerala and followed by Bihar and Assam, whereas Rajasthan and Gujarat have the least unemployment rate among major states of India. (Higher ranks represents higher unemployment among the population). National average stands at 50.

Table 1. List of Major States of India ranked according to Unemployment

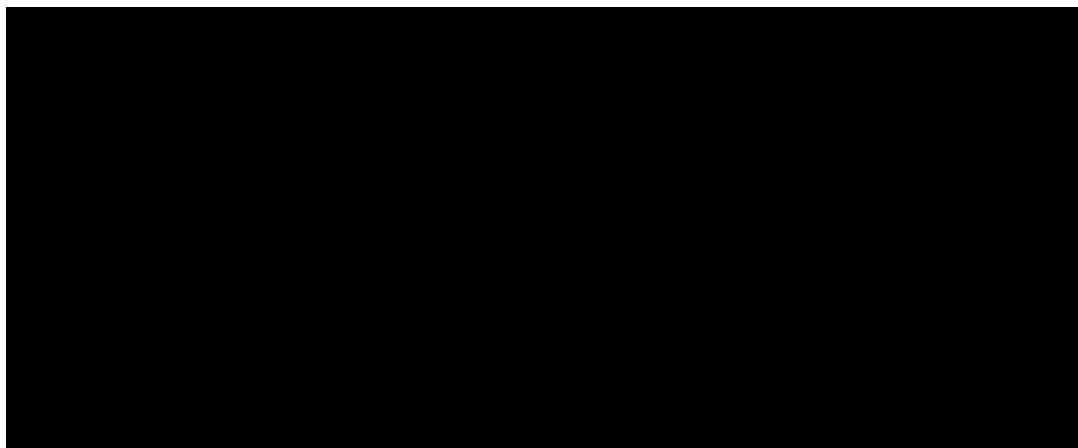


Source: Socio-Economic Profiles and Inter –State Comparison of Some Major States of India (<http://India budget .nic.in/budget 2013-2014/es2012-13/echap-13.pdf>).

India is essentially a rural economy based on agriculture which is their principal means of livelihood. Seasonal Unemployment is primarily confined to agriculture. Agriculture does not provide employment round the year. It is also known as perennial unemployment. Sowing and harvesting season ranges between 5 and 7 months. For the rest of the period the cultivator has to remain idle. Experts believe that an Indian Cultivator remains unemployed for 5 to 6 months. With the existing structure of Mizoram economy, precarious state of agriculture, slow growth of alternative employment avenues in rural areas, lack of industries, poor communication facilities. There is low possibility of absorbing the fast expanding labor force. The public sector (government) and the private sector of the economy, which have so far absorbed a large percentage of the working

population, have already reached the saturation limit, and therefore, are not likely to hold out encouraging job prospects in the coming years.

Table 2 Labour Force Participation and Employment Situation in Mizoram, 2009

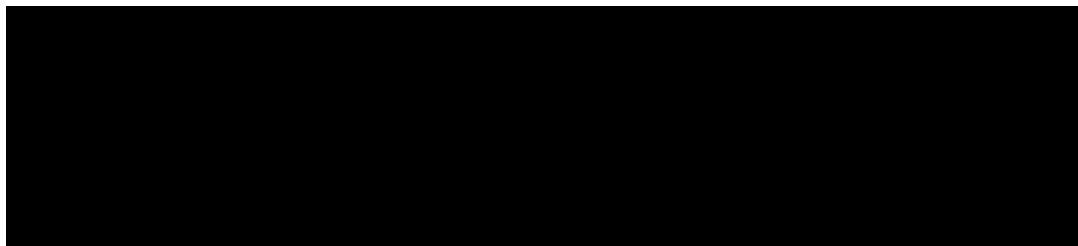


Source: Mizoram Human Development Report, 2013.

The current employment situation, according to 2009 field data survey shows that the Work Participation Rate in the state is 55.7 percent for males and 39.8 percent for females, aggregating to 47.6 percent in total. (Table 2) shows that the WPR is the highest in Lawngtlai and lowest in Saiha. Employment Rates (ERs), expressed as a percentage of the population are 37 percent, including 48 percent for males and 26 percent for females. The employment rate is the highest in Mamit and the lowest in

Aizawl. Unemployment is a serious problem in Mizoram, about 23 percent of the persons in the workforce are without any gainful employment. In the Kolasib and Mamit districts, the rates are close to or above 20 percent, with the highest being in Aizawl (29%). The unemployment rates are substantially higher for females (34%) as compared to males (14%). In fact, for Aizawl and Lawngtlai, the unemployment rates for females are above 40 percent which is an alarming situation indeed.

Table 3 Gender and Age-wise Work Participation and Employment Situation in Mizoram, 2009



Source: Mizoram Human Development Report, 2013.

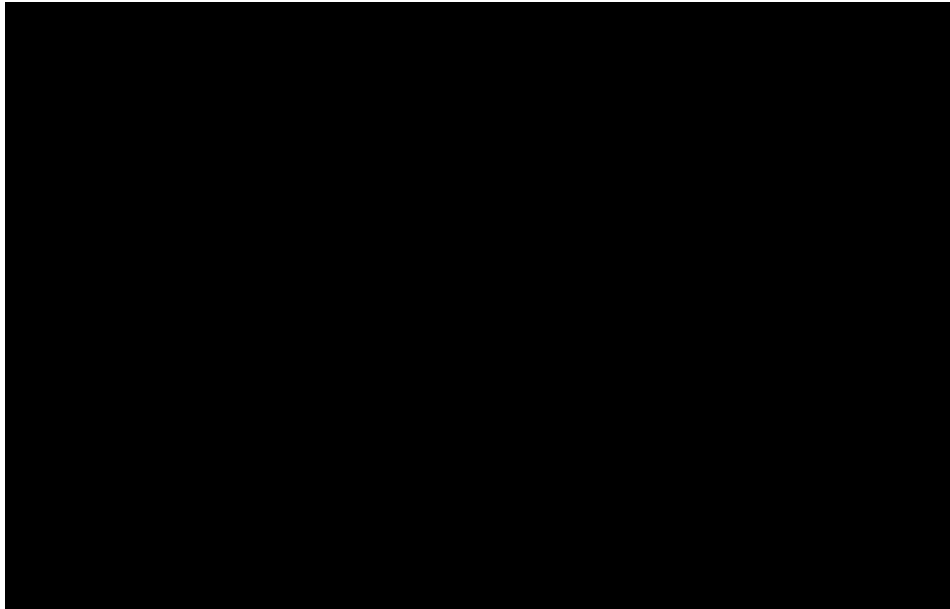
It has been observed that the work participation rate, when disaggregated across age groups and gender, is the highest for the bottom two age groups- 15-24 and 25-40 years. The Table 3 reveals that the employment rates are the highest for the age group 41- 60 years. Hence, while the work participation rates are lower for the females, the employment rates are further lower. This is why the unemployment rates for females are higher than for the males. From the table, it has been seen that unemployment rates for female in the age group 15- 24 are higher (52.2%) than the males. Of greater concern, however, is the average, specifically because of the

higher participation of women in the labour force and in employment. Therefore, the participation of women in the labour market in Mizoram is wider than in the country as a whole, which is perhaps direct fallout of the social structure of the tribal population of the state.

Public Sector Employment

From the Table 4, it is clear that as per Census of Government Employees, the number of employees working under the state government was 53,653 out of which 42,308 were regular employees and 8013 were Muster Roll and 1601 were work – charged.

Table 4 Group Wise Number of State Government Employees as on 31.3.2009



Source: Economic Survey, Mizoram 2012- 13, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl

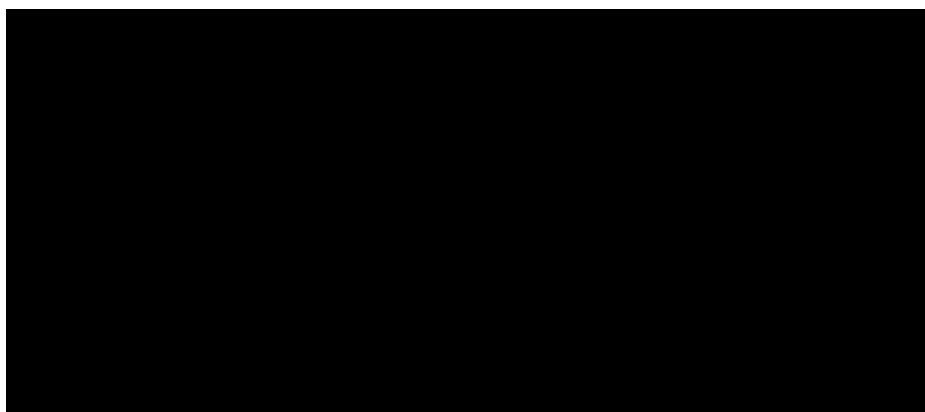
Table 4 shows that as per the last i.e.5th Economics Census held in 2005, a total of 1, 06,706 persons were employed in all the 47,730 enterprises enumerated

in the state. Out of these 13,481 (12.6%) were employed in agricultural enterprises and remaining 93,225(87.4%) were in non-agricultural enterprises. Out of the total workers in the state, 33,314 (31.2%) of these workers were employed in rural areas whereas 73,392 (68.78%) were employed in urban areas.

The Table 5 shows that on the job seekers registered in Aizawl Employment

Exchange by the end of September-2012, how the fast growing population in Mizoram and the limited means of supporting it has led to a large scale under employment and unemployment in Mizoram. While reducing unemployment continued to be the major thrust of developmental planning, growing unemployment problem still remains an alarming feature of the state.

Table 5 Number of Employments (All Enterprises)



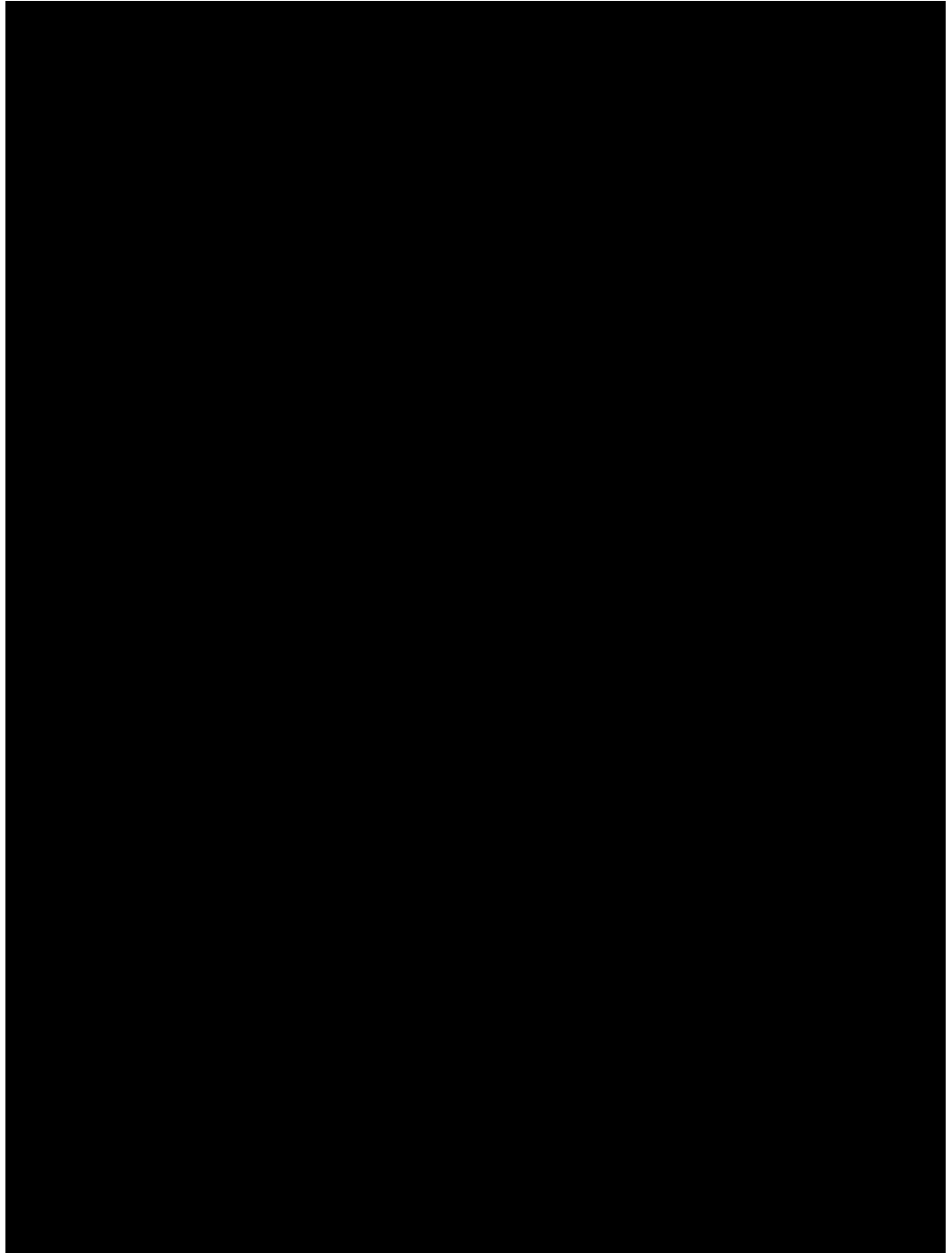
Source: Economic Survey, Mizoram 2012- 13, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl

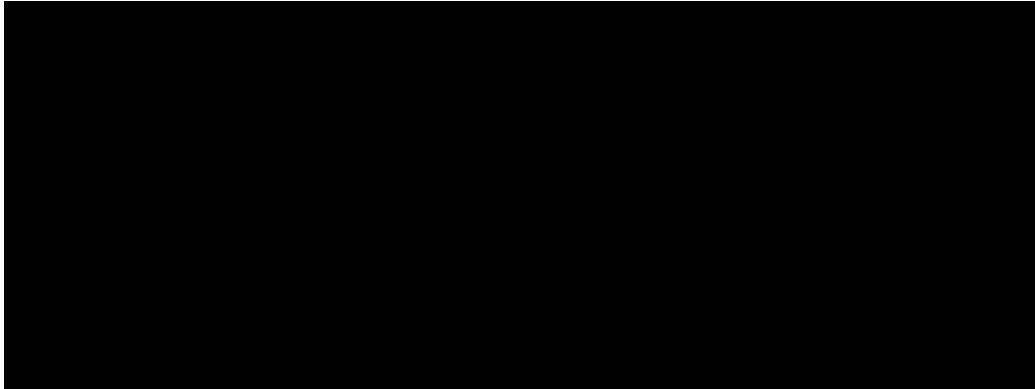
From the below Table 6, it is very clear that job – seekers have been increasing over the years and there is a persistent problem of un-employment especially among the educated youth. The number of job seekers in the live register upto September, 2012 stood at 50,225 and the number of vacancies notified at 2006 during 2010-2011 while the number of applications registered for self-employment assistance during 2010-2011 was 154. It is very clear that it is not easy to tackle the unemployment

problem in Mizoram. So, we have to analyze the causes and consequences which can help us to make a prescription for its remedy. The incidence of unemployment is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Unemployment rates for women are higher than those of men. The incidence of unemployment among the educated is much higher than the overall unemployment. Unemployment is the main problem affecting the youth group in the age of 15- 29 years at all levels.

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Table 6 Job-Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchange in Mizoram as on Sept 2012

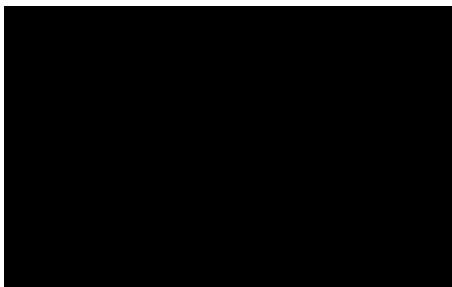




Source: Economic Survey, Mizoram 2012- 13, Planning and Programme Implementation Department ,Government of Mizoram, Aizawl

The Table 7 shows that number of educated job seekers registered in the live register of Aizawl, Champhai, Lunglei, and Saiha as on 31.1.2013.

Table 7 Employment Service



Source: Economic Survey, Mizoram 2012- 13

Policy Initiatives for Generating Employment for Youth

The concerns of youth have also been at the centre of India’s policy formulation. The Planning commission of India was replaced by National Institution for Transforming India(NITI Ayog) from 1st January, 2015.It has stressed that the recognition of the role of youth is vital for the society. However, unemployment

problem of youth has not received the necessary attention. India’s first National Youth Policy that was formulated in 1988, recognized that the most important component of a youth programme has to be elimination of unemployment. Considering the limited achievement of the objective of the 1988 youth policy, a new National Youth Policy was announced in 2003 that was aimed at galvanizing young people to rise up to new challenges. The National Youth Policy, 2014 emphasizes on the employment and skill development of youth. National Council for Skill Development was set up in 2005 which targeted skills development as a major national policy.

The Government of India through planned investment in skills development, helps to realize a democratic dividend: Right to work: The Constitution of India, under Article 41, provides that the state shall within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work,

to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and other cases of underserved wants. Article 38 states that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people. Article 43 states that state shall endeavor to secure a living wage and a decent standard of living to all the workers. These promises are part of the Directive Principles of State Policy of Constitution of India.

Employment Exchanges

The Employment Exchange Organizations operated by the federal Ministry of labour, runs more than 900 individual employment exchanges in order to better match demand and supply with regard to work opportunities. Job seekers register with these employment exchanges and are notified as soon as any vacancy in the government sector matches their profile. According to the employment exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act of 1959, in any state or area thereof, the employer in every establishment in the public sector in the state or area shall – before filling any vacancy in any employment in that establishment- notify that vacancy to such employment exchanges as may be prescribed employment exchanges play a significant role in assisting young people in finding employment.

Employment Generation Programmes

In recent years, employment generation programmes have emerged as an important employment policy tool,

particularly in developing countries like India in order to tackle the problem of growing unemployment, the Government of India has come with a number of employment generation programmes by way of wage employment or self employment programmes. They are Prime Minister's employment Generation Programme which has been created by merging two schemes - Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation programme which were in operation till 31.3.2008. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) started on 1.4.1999 is a major on going programme for self-employment for the rural poor. The programme was developed after reviewing and restructuring the erstwhile IRDP and allied programmes namely Training Rural Youth for Self Employment , Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Supply of Toolkits in Rural Areas, Ganga Kalian Yojana, Million Wells Scheme, MGNREGS, and Hunar se Rozgaar Tak.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is a scheme to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under employed which has five major components, namely Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) , Urban Women Self Help Programme (UWSP), Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEPUP), Urban Wage Employment Programme, Urban Community Development Network, and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgaar Yojana. It provides wage employment and food security in

rural areas and also creates durable economic and social assets. This programme and its components have, however, not been able to achieve the desired results due to the deficiencies they suffered from.

Conclusion

The ever increasing size of the youth work force, both skilled and unskilled, in an environment of job scarcity means more young people are faced with limited opportunities, causing them to be either underemployed or unemployed. Indian youth, in the absence of any formal social security, is thus faced with the challenge of survival and limited growth prospects. To check unemployment among the youth in India, various measures have been initiated. India has introduced a number of employment generating schemes, including those under MGNREGS. Similar policy initiatives have been taken for skilled workers. India has created measures to tackle the problems of unemployment. Skill development is part of the major efforts and is receiving assistance from various countries including Germany with regard to vocational training.

Hence, there is a need to learn about other's experiences, their employment guarantee programme and also their social security programmes. In an increasingly integrated world where the causes of unemployment are of a global nature, national measures may prove inefficient in overcoming the challenges. Global

organizations need to put special emphasis on the problem of youth unemployment to enhance employability and employment opportunities.

Development of rural areas will stop the migration of the rural people to the urban cities and this will not put more pressure on the urban city jobs. So, government should encourage and develop the agriculture based allied industries in rural areas. The higher educational system of our country should be made need based in order to increase future employment. Policies should ensure that the educational systems should prepare young people for the skill demands of employers through outreach programmes, training, entrepreneurship, and access to job-search assistance measures.

Vocational education and training, and entrepreneurship development programmes should be given greater importance in our educational system, so that a student or a youth can get adequate job opportunities. Population growth has to be checked properly. Family planning programmes should be made more popular. People should be educated about the importance of a small family norm. These may help us to solve the problem of unemployment. UN Secretary General has made working with and for young people which is one of the top priorities in his *five year action agenda* which includes deepening the youth focus of existing programmes on employment and entrepreneurship.

Overcoming the problem of unemployment in the state of Mizoram, particularly that of the educated unemployed, needs immediate, focused and coordinated attention with new policy initiatives, sound institutional arrangements and effective operational strategies for creating employment opportunities and enhancing employability. A combined, inclusive and holistic effort is required to address the above mentioned problem in a principled manner.

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