

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is a critical economic and social issue that affects individuals, families, and the overall development of a nation. It occurs when people who are actively seeking work cannot find suitable employment opportunities, leading to financial instability and social distress. Unemployment can be categorized into different types, such as structural, cyclical, frictional, and seasonal unemployment, each having distinct causes and consequences. Youth unemployment, in particular, is a major concern as it hampers economic growth and productivity while also increasing dependency on families and government support. The lack of job opportunities for young individuals leads to frustration, reduced self-esteem, and, in some cases, migration in search of better prospects. If not addressed effectively, unemployment can contribute to rising poverty levels, increased crime rates, and social unrest. To combat this issue, governments and policymakers must focus on job creation, skill development, and industrial expansion to accommodate the growing workforce.

In India, unemployment remains a persistent problem despite being one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The rapid increase in population, limited job creation, and mismatch between education and industry demands contribute to the rising unemployment rate, especially among young graduates. Many industries prefer experienced professionals, leaving fresh graduates struggling to secure jobs. Additionally, automation and digitalization have transformed the employment landscape, reducing the need for traditional jobs while increasing demand for specialized skills. In Kerala, unemployment presents a unique challenge due to its high literacy rate and educated workforce. While education levels are high, the availability of jobs that match the qualifications of graduates is relatively low. Many skilled workers migrate to other states or countries in search of better opportunities, leading to a phenomenon known as "brain drain." The lack of large-scale industries, coupled with the saturation of traditional job sectors, further intensifies the problem. Government initiatives such as self-employment programs, startup incentives, and vocational training have been introduced to address the issue, but a more comprehensive approach is required to create sustainable employment opportunities.

This study aims to explore the impact of unemployment among youth, analyzing its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. The research will assess factors such as educational qualifications, skill development, and employment trends to provide insights into how unemployment affects economic and social stability. The study will focus on a sample group from Taliparamba in Kannur district, providing a localized perspective while addressing the broader issue of youth unemployment.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Youth unemployment is a growing concern that affects economic stability, social development, and individual well-being. Despite advancements in education and skill development, many young individuals struggle to find suitable employment due to factors such as job market saturation, skill mismatches, and lack of industry diversification. In India, and particularly in Kerala, the high literacy rate has not necessarily translated into adequate employment opportunities, leading to an increase in job-seeking migration and economic dependency. This study aims to examine the impact of unemployment on youth, identifying the key challenges they face and analyzing potential solutions to bridge the gap between education and employment.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Understanding youth unemployment is important for creating better job opportunities and ensuring economic and social stability. This study explores the main reasons behind unemployment, such as the gap between education and job requirements, limited industries, and lack of necessary skills. By identifying these challenges, the research can help policymakers, educators, and businesses develop effective solutions like skill training, entrepreneurship support, and job creation programs. It also highlights the social and emotional impact of unemployment, stressing the need for both economic and personal support. This study is conducted in Taliparamba Municipality, offering insights into the local unemployment situation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the current unemployment rate in the local region and its impact on the economy.
- To identify the main causes of unemployment among college graduates.
- To assess the effectiveness of government programmes aimed at reducing unemployment.
- To explore the relationship between education level and employment status.
- To gather insights on the job-seeking experiences of unemployed individuals.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is based on a sample of 50 respondents, which may not fully represent all unemployed youth in Taliparamba Municipality.
- The research focuses on youth unemployment, limiting its scope in understanding unemployment among other age groups.
- The findings are time-sensitive, as employment trends and job opportunities change over time.
- Responses may be affected by personal biases, which could impact the accuracy of the data.

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