



POPULATION GROWTH - A BOON OR BANE: AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

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IMPACT OF OVER POPULATION GROWTH ON UNEMPLOYMENT

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Introduction

Unemployment, underemployment and population it was stated that the problem of employment was the extent to which a nation's labor supply was not matched by labor demand or job opportunities. Population was thus a supply factor and the country's economic situation was a demand factor. Overpopulation has various causes and effects on humans, social, economic and environmental systems. Gaining an understanding of the causes and effects of population growth is essential to find a solution for unemployment and many other problems in a modern society. The demographic variables that were considered important in the supply of labor were: a) the size and rate of growth of the population, which was a function of the birth rate, the death rate and migration; and b) the age structure of the population, which was also a product of the rate of growth of the population and its distribution. An imbalance between the supply of labor and the demand for it gave rise to unemployment and underemployment. The vicious cycle generated by a high dependency burden associated with a young age-structure led to low savings and investments, which in turn led to slow economic growth and a low standard of living. This produced high fertility rates, which in turn heightened the dependency burden perpetuating the cycle. This vicious cycle could be broken at only two points: at the stage of low economic growth, by adopting policies to accelerate economic growth. To be successful, however, both actions had to be pursued simultaneously. Numerous participants emphasized the global nature of the issue of unemployment and underemployment; the effects of international competition and restrictive trade policies on employment opportunities.

Objectives

1. To study on the impact of over population growth on employment.
2. To study the steps to control on over population and unemployment.

Impact of Over Population on Unemployment

Even after 67 years of independence, the scenario of our country is not good, due to over population. Some major impacts of high population are as follows:

- Manpower utilisation: The number of jobless people is on the rise in India due to economic depression and slow business development and expansion activities.

- **Pressure on infrastructure:** Development of infrastructural facilities is unfortunately not keeping pace with the growth of population. The result is lack of transportation, communication, housing, education, healthcare etc. There has been an increase in the number of slums, overcrowded houses, traffic congestion etc.
- **Resource utilisation:** Land areas, water resources, forests are over exploited. There is also scarcity of resources.
- **Decreased production and increased costs:** Food production and distribution have not been able to catch up with the increasing population and hence the costs of production have increased. Inflation is the major consequence of over population.
- **Inequitable income distribution:** In the face of an increasing population, there is an unequal distribution of income and inequalities within the country widen.
- **Unemployment:** Generating employment for a huge population in a country like India is very difficult. The number of illiterate persons increases every year. Unemployment rate is thus showing an increasing trend.

According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) report, the unemployment rate was at an all-time high of 6.1 percent in 2017-18. The report also says that male youth had an unemployment rate of 17.4 percent and 18.7 percent in rural and urban areas, while women youth had rates of 13.6 percent and 27.2 percent respectively in 2017-18. Union Ministry of Labour and Employment claimed national unemployment hovers around 3.7 percent in 2015-16. However, the data is based on usual principal subsidiary status (UPSS) approach that requires only 30 days of work in a year to call the person employed. 77 percent of the families reportedly have no regular wage earner and more than 67 percent have income is less than Rs 11,000 per month. Around 58 percent of unemployed graduates and 62 percent of unemployed post graduates cited non-availability of jobs matching with education/skill and experience as the main reason for unemployment. As per the National Skill Development Mission Document, as much as 97 percent of the workforce in India has not undergone formal skill training. About 76 percent of the households did not benefit from employment generating schemes like MGNREGA, PMEGP, SGSY, SJSRY etc.

Causes of Unemployment in India

The rise in the unemployment rate can be traced to various factors. First, farming has become very unattractive given the vicissitudes of the monsoon and government policy. A bad monsoon means lower crop output and income leading to farmer indebtedness and at the extreme, suicides. A good crop leads to prices coming down and with an ineffective minimum support price (MSP), farmers' income tends to come down again leading to the same set of problems. Therefore, the children of farmers would rather not do farming and move over to the urban areas or look for jobs in the non-agricultural space. In a way, the disguised unemployment which was earlier there with excess hands working on a piece of land has officially become unemployed.

Second, with GST coming in, there has been an upheaval in the small and medium sized enterprises (SME) space which was a major absorber of labour all through the years especially in rural areas. With forced recognition and opaqueness of processes, there has been unsettling of several self-employed to distress. Considering that this came on the back of demonetisation, it was but natural that this class got affected the most as the business went down.

Third, migration to urban areas has resulted in more jobs in the real estate construction sector which takes in unskilled labour. This has been the trend in the past. Now, 2017-18 was a year when real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was enforced post-demonetisation and there was a perceptible

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slowdown in the real estate sector, especially commercial and non-affordable housing projects. The stock of inventory tended to increase which slowed down the pace of growth in private infrastructure, means that these jobs also became scarce. Therefore, the intake of labour was restricted.

Fourth, the youth of today also has aspiration and often are willing to take on low-skill jobs once they have a recognised degree. However, given that the economy is not growing at the desired pace of 8 percent -plus in the last three years; demand for labour has been restricted to the higher -end-engineers, management graduates and other professionally qualified personnel. This makes a basic degree irrelevant for employment and while local laws ensure there is employment in supermarkets and e-commerce businesses, migratory labour is not within the perimeter.

Steps to Control Population and Unemployment Problem in India

The very first solutions for the unemployment is to control the rising population of our country. Government should motivate people to have small families. Indian government politicians, policy makers should initiate a bold population policy so that the economic growth of the country can keep pace with the demands of a growing population.

The quality of Indian education system be improved. The current education system is not upto the level. Government should keep a strict watch on the education system and try to implement new ways to generate skilled labour force. Government should select a committee to look after the schools and universities. The syllabus taught is of no use to the industries so the education should be as per the current requirements of the industries. Before completing the education a practical knowledge should be given.

Government should encourage and develop the agricultural based industries in rural areas so that the rural candidates don't migrate to the urban areas. More employment should be generated in rural areas for the seasonal unemployment people and also rapid industrialisation should be created.

Finally, Government should allow more foreign companies to open their unit in India, so that more employment opportunities will be available.

Also today's youth should join the institute or select the course where proper training is given and the course is as per the current industries requirements. Take the course as per student's interest and which will bright their future. Increasing the welfare and status of women and girls, spread of education, increasing awareness for the use of contraceptives and family planning methods, sex education, encouraging male sterilisation and spacing births, free distribution of contraceptives and condoms among the poor, encouraging female empowerment, more health care centres for the poor, to name a few, can play a major role in controlling population.

India's strengths in the global world in various fields cannot be ignored, whether in science and technology, medicine and health care, business and industry, military, communication, entertainment, literature and many more. Experts are hopeful that by increasing public awareness and enlisting strict population control norms by the Government will definitely lead the way for the country's economic prosperity and control of population.

Conclusion

Apart from the usual solutions of controlling the rising population in unemployment through increasing the quality of our education to include skill based learning. Government should also encourage and develop Industrialization and agriculture based industries especially in rural areas so that the rural candidates don't migrate to the urban areas. But the best solution to problem of unemployment is encouraging entrepreneurship among the youth of country. Entrepreneurs generate employments to many in a country. They also promote capital formation and employ resources leading to add the value to a specific industry. They don't let wealth concentrate in a few hands, there is more equity in the distribution of wealth. Since 65percent of the population is below 35 in age and if this young population would get into entrepreneurship then more than half of unemployment population of India will get employed. So, the study conclude that entrepreneurship not only creates wealth but jobs too.

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