

Unemployment among Educated Youth: Present Scenario in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal

ABHISHEK DAS*¹, NISHAMANI KAR² AND AMIT JOSHI³

^{1&3}Ph.D. Research Scholar and ²Professor

^{1&2}Geography Discipline, Faculty of Environmental Science,
Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), India

³Kumaon University, Nainital (Uttarakhand) India

ABSTRACT

This study discussed about job seekers in Uttar Dinajpur to understand the distribution of educational backgrounds and qualifications. The study reveals a dominance of Arts graduates across various categories, including those registered with the Employment Exchange office and those seeking placement through a specific graduation field. In both cases, Arts graduates represent a significant majority (over 90%) compared to Science, Commerce, and vocational fields. Interestingly, the data on streams in Higher Secondary education shows a similar trend with Arts streams dominating (over 92%). This paper also highlights a very low percentage of job seekers with vocational training or qualifications in fields like Engineering, IT, Management, Law, and Medical. This suggests a potential mismatch between the skills demanded by the job market and the educational backgrounds of the workforce. Further research is needed to explore the reasons behind this mismatch and identify potential solutions, such as promoting vocational training and aligning educational programs with needs.

Key Words : Arts, Science, Commerce, Vocational fields Engineering, IT, Management, Law, Medical

INTRODUCTION

India's educated youth are confronted with major difficulties such as underemployment and educated unemployment. The gap between graduates' aspirations and the employment opportunities available to them causes educated unemployment. Unemployment refers to the state of not having a job, often known as joblessness. If a person is looking for work or willing to work at the prevailing wage but can't find it, he or she is considered unemployed.

Education is one of our society's most important agents of growth and transformation. It is also regarded as a significant source of economic advancement for both society and individuals. India is witnessing fast demographic and educational growth, with enormous numbers of people receiving degrees and diplomas each

year, while a large portion of the population stays unemployed. Total enrolment in higher education increased to 34.6 million in 2014-2015, with 18.6 million boys and 16 million girls. In India, the GER in higher education is 24.5 per cent (18-23 years of age group). Males have a GER of 25.4 per cent, while females have a GER of 23.00 per cent.

Unemployment is a result of educated youth's propensity for 'white collar work' (2011, Dixit and Gupta). Other factors that contribute to unemployment in India include a lack of education and vocational assistance (2011, Dixit and Gupta). After completing their schooling, young people face extreme difficulty in finding acceptable employment.

According to a survey conducted by the Labour Bureau of Chandigarh, one out of every three people in the age bracket of 15 to 29 years who have completed

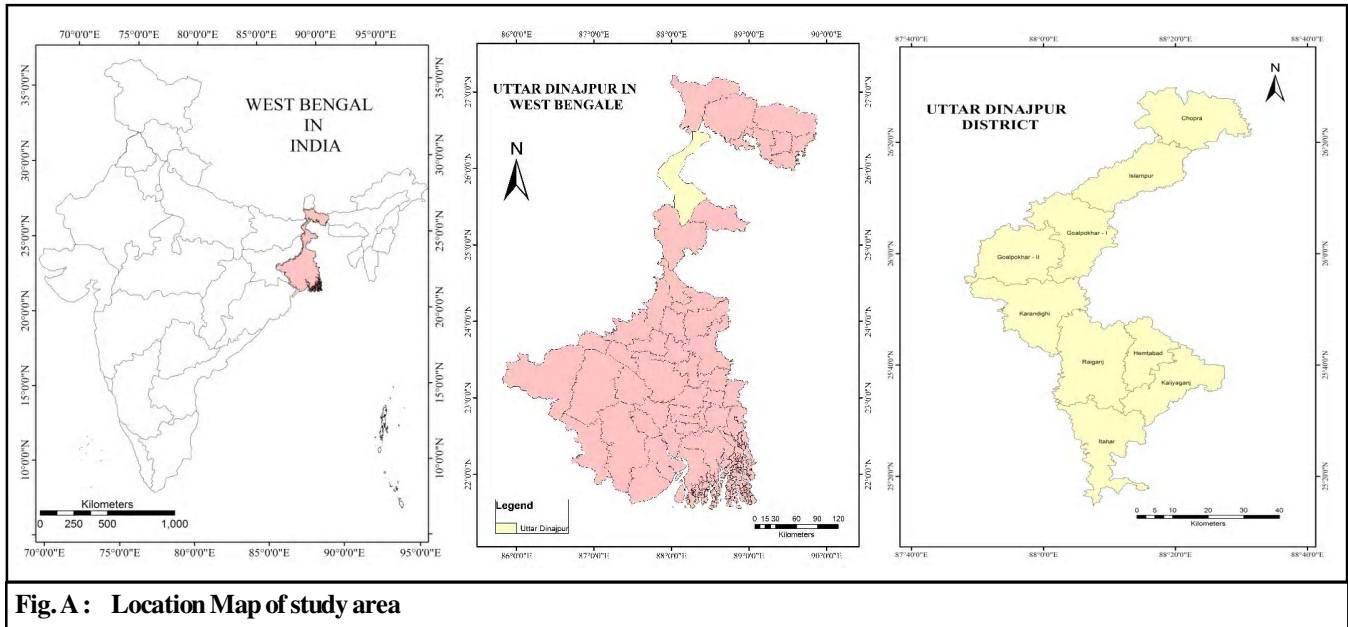


Fig. A : Location Map of study area

their education is unemployed. According to the publication “Youth Employment –Unemployment Scenario, 2012-13,” illiterate youth had a lower unemployment rate than educated youth. According to the survey, the labour force participation rate was estimated to be 31.2, 47.3, and 39.5 per cent for the age groups 15-24, 18-29, respectively, and the unemployment rate in the 15-29 age group stood at 13.3 per cent in rural areas, with the unemployment rate for graduates and above the age group at 39.5 per cent. Dev and Venkatanarayana (2011) look at the employment and unemployment situation of India’s youth over the last two and a half decades, from 1983 to 2007-08. It studies developments in the labor force and workforce participation rates, unemployment, joblessness, working poor, growth and employment elasticities, and other factors. Dar (1981) studied the university graduates’ unemployment in West Bengal (India), Bangladesh, and the Philippines, which presented socioeconomic and educational features of these areas, a comparative analysis of unemployment, and suggested strategies to reduce unemployment

Objectives:

- The main objectives of this paper are Followings
- 1) To study the present scenario of unemployment among the educated youth in Uttar Dinajpur district.
 - 2) To study the vocational education or technical

skill of the educated unemployed in the Uttar Dinajpur district.

Study Area:

The district of Uttar Dinajpur lies between 25°11' N to 26°49' N latitude and 87°49' E to 90° E longitude. It is bounded by the Bangladesh and the Dakshin Dinajpur district in the East, by Malda in the South and South – West, it shares boundary with Bihar in the West and Darjeeling district in the northern side respectively. Total geographical area is about 3142 sq.km (Fig. A).

METHODOLOGY

The research paper prepared with the help of secondary data. The main source of secondary data has been collected from employment exchange office, Raiganj and Islampur division of Uttar Dinajpur District, census of India 2011 and report of ministry of labour and employment in India.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To clear understanding the Scenario of unemployment educated youth in Uttar Dinajpur we can see this following information’s.

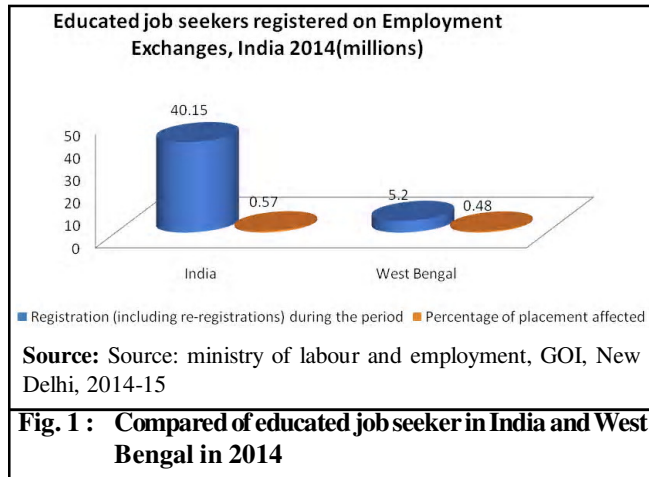
In the above ministry of labour and employment data in 2014 we can see that total number of job seeker registered in employment exchange office was 40.15 million and percentage of placement affected only 0.57

percentages. In case of West Bengal this was lower than the national level there was 5.2 million educated job seeker registered in employment exchange offices in 2014 but employment affected only 0.48 percentages (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Table 1 : Total number of educated job seekers registered on Employment Exchanges, India 2014(millions)

	2014-15	
	India	West Bengal
Registration (including re-registrations) during the period	40.15	5.2
Placement effected	2.27	0.25
Percentage of placement affected	0.57	0.48

Source: ministry of labour and employment, GOI, New Delhi, 2014-15



Source: Source: ministry of labour and employment, GOI, New Delhi, 2014-15

Fig. 1 : Compared of educated job seeker in India and West Bengal in 2014

According to economic review published in 2011-12, govt. of West Bengal data this is cleared that number of secondary educated unemployed register in exchange office was increased from 54.09 per cent in 1990 to 59.15 per cent in 2011. Number of under graduated educated unemployed registered in exchange office was decreased from 22.85 per cent in 1990 and 21.82 per cent in 2000

to 19.7 per cent in 2011. Graduated and above graduation qualified educated unemployed in engineering it's cleared that percentage of unemployed was increased from 0.075 per cent in 1990 to 0.18 per cent in 2011 but in the case of medical field percentage of unemployed decreased from 0.11 per cent in 1990 to 0.02 per cent in 2011. In the case of others graduated unemployed live registered in exchange office was decreased from 22.85 per cent to 20.02 per cent in 2000 and further slightly increased into 20.94 per cent. But total number of job seeker live registered in exchange office in West Bengal was increased 2651000 in 1990 to 3244000 in 2000 and 5000500 in 2011. In the other hand the in terms of placement offer by government in public sectors was decreased from 0.36 per cent in 1990 to 0.036 per cent in 2011 in West Bengal (Table 2 and Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 : Qualification wise educated job seeker registered in exchange office in west Bengal (2011)

Present scenario of educated unemployed and their vocational qualification in Uttar Dinajpur district:

The Table 3 you provided shows the number of job seekers who registered with the Employment Exchange office in Uttar Dinajpur district in 2023, broken down by

Table 2: Education qualification wise number of educated job seekers in live register of employment exchange in west Bengal (No. in '000)

Education Qualification	1990	(%)	2000	(%)	2011	(%)
Passed Secondary examination	1434	54.09	1828	56.35	2958	59.15
Undergraduate	606	22.85	708	21.82	985	19.7
Graduate and above						
a) Engineering	2	0.075	4	0.15	9.3	0.18
b) Medical	3	0.11	15	0.46	1.0	0.02
c) Others	606	22.85	649	20.02	1047.2	20.94
Total no. educated job seekers Register	2651	100	3244	100	5000.5	100
Total no. of placement effected	9.5	0.36	13.7	0.42	1.8	0.036

Source: Economic review 2011-2012, Govt. of WB.

Table 3 : Number of 10th passed job seeker registered in Exchange office in Uttar Dinajpur district in 2023

	10 th passed job seeker registered in Exchange office in Uttar Dinajpur district		Percentage
	10th	Percentage	
Total Male	37868	42.74	0.05
Total Female	50730	57.25	0.086
Total	88598	99.98	0.02

Source: Employments exchange office, Uttar Dinajpur (2023)

gender and whether they had vocational training. In total, there were 88,598 job seekers who had passed the 10th grade and registered with the exchange. Of these, 57.25% were female and 42.74% were male. A very small percentage (0.02%) of the job seekers had vocational training.

This Table 4 and Fig. 3 summarizes the distribution of job seekers by their stream in Higher Secondary education. The data shows a clear dominance of Arts stream, with 92.76% of job seekers coming from that background. Science streams follow distantly at 4.53%, with Commerce (1.51%) and Vocational (1.21%) streams having even smaller representation.

Table 4: Stream wise registered job seeker in Higher Secondary educated youth in Uttar Dinajpur

Streams in H.S	No. of job seeker	Percentage
Arts	54796	92.76
Commerce	890	1.51
Science	2676	4.53
Vocational	714	1.21

Source: Employments exchange office, Uttar Dinajpur (2023)

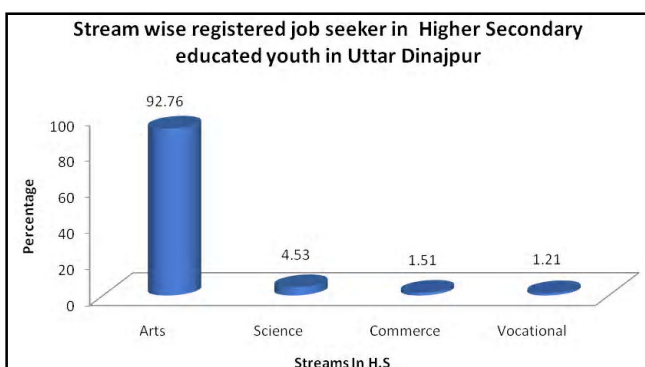


Fig. 3: Stream wise registered job seeker in Higher Secondary educated youth in Uttar Dinajpur

In the field of graduation, Honours has the most job seekers (3950), accounting for 92.59% of the total. Engineering (116) and others (118) follow distantly at around 2.7% each. IT (55), Management (14), Law (9), and Medical (4) graduates represent a smaller portion of

the job seekers at 1.29%, 0.33%, 0.21%, and 0.09% respectively (Table 5 and Fig. 4).

Table 5: Stream wise registered job seeker in Graduated youth in Uttar Dinajpur

Graduation	No. of job seeker	Percentage
Engineering	116	2.72
Honours	3950	92.59
IT	55	1.29
Law	9	0.21
Management	14	0.33
Medical	4	0.09
Others	118	2.77

Source: Employments exchange office, Uttar Dinajpur (2023)

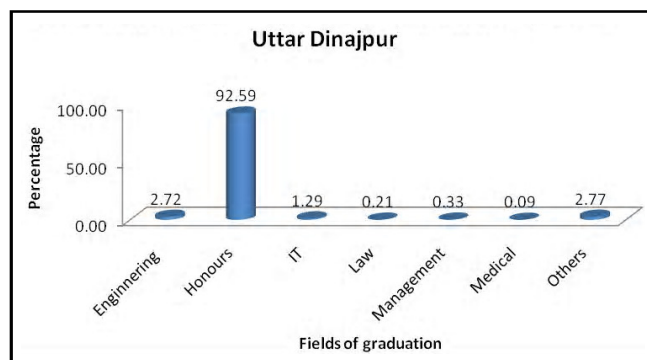


Fig. 4: Stream wise registered job seeker in Graduated youth in Uttar Dinajpur

This Table 6 and Fig. 5 shows the distribution of job seekers by their graduation field. Among graduates, Arts has the most job seekers (94.83%), followed by Science (3.41%) and Commerce (1.75%).

Table 6 : Stream wise registered job seeker of Graduated (passed course) youth in Uttar Dinajpur

Graduation in passed course	No. of job registered seeker	Percentage
Arts	5028	94.83
Commerce	93	1.75
Science	181	3.41
Total	5302	100

Source: Employments exchange office, Uttar Dinajpur (2023)

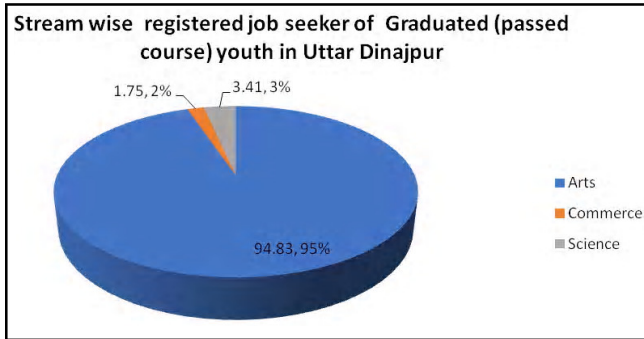


Fig. 5 : Stream wise registered job seeker of Graduated (passed course) youth in Uttar Dinajpur

This diagram shows the distribution of job seekers across different fields of post-graduation. The most job seeker field is General degree with 1074 job seekers, accounting for 77.28 % of the total. Different fields like Engineering, IT, Law, Management, and Medical have a significantly lower number of job seekers, all below 1% each. Others field with 213 job seekers, accounting for 19.83 % of the total (Table 7 and Fig. 6).

Post-graduation	Number of job seeker	Percentage
Engineering	8	0.74
General	830	77.28
IT	10	0.93
Law	2	0.19
Management	10	0.93
Medical	1	0.09
Others	213	19.83
Total	1074	100

Source: Employments exchange office, Uttar Dinajpur (2023)

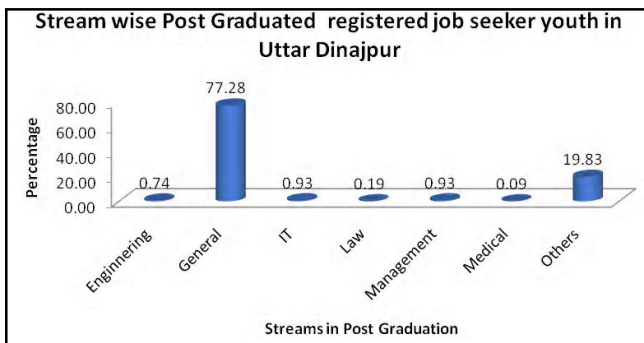


Fig. 6 : Stream wise Post Graduated registered job seeker youth in Uttar Dinajpur

Conclusion:

This study trend emerges where Arts or Honours stream graduates dominate the pool of job seekers. In

the graduation (passed course), Arts graduates comprised 94.83%, whereas in the Higher Secondary (H.S.) Arts accounted for 92.76% of job seekers. The vast majority lacked vocational training and it comprised only 0.02% of job seeker. Job seekers with Arts or Honours degrees are the most prevalent . This suggests a potential skills gap in the job market, where there may be a shortage of workers with vocational training or degrees in fields other than Arts or Honours. The majority of job seekers come from Arts backgrounds, followed by Science and Commerce. Fields like Engineering, IT, Management, Law, and Medical represent a smaller portion of job seekers

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