

## ***EDITORIAL***

### **Jobs for Living**

Today, the two great economic challenges facing mankind in the present century are ‘poverty induced hunger’ and ‘unemployment induced jobless growth’ in the underdeveloped and developing worlds. The world population is estimated at 8.2 billion (September 2024), which could be divided into three categories: (i) the rich 0.9 billion, (ii) the transitional 0.5 billion, and (iii) the poor 6.8 billion. Thus, nearly 83 per cent of the world population comes under the category of ‘poor’. The Human Development Report 2024 has rightly pointed out that ‘many parts of the world are witnessing a new phenomenon, “jobless growth.”’ The report further said that until March 2024, an extra 10 million workers were expected to be looking for jobs, raising the global unemployment rate from 5.1 per cent in 2023 to 5.2 per cent. While the job gap rate in 2023 was 8.2 per cent in high-income countries, it stood at 20.5 per cent in the low-income countries. Similarly, while the 2023 unemployment rate persisted at 4.5 per cent in high income countries, it was 5.7 per cent in low-income countries. In the Indian scenario, poverty, unemployment, disguised unemployment, and even technological unemployment have always been important issues in post-independence India. We have always been a primarily agrarian, labour-surplus economy with low capital stock that has manifested in low industrial productivity and a largely non-remunerative monsoon-dependent agricultural economy. The Indian planners held the view that economic growth would automatically lead to mitigating technological unemployment and to the creation of new jobs in the above sectors.

### **Contributors’ Responses**

In this issue, seven shortlisted research papers have been published. The first paper by Vidyarthi Vikas on “Trends of Jobless Growth in the Beginning of 21st Century: Evidences from the Indian Manufacturing Sector” is an attempt to examine the status of the Labour Force

Participation Rate (LFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) and also to analyse the trend of 'jobless growth' using Annual Survey of Industries Data. The total 26 such industries data have been taken randomly for the study under review, which accounted for 80 per cent of the total labour force engaged in the organised manufacturing sector of India. The author argues that labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, spinning, weaving, construction material, and the food processing industry groups were not creating enough employment. Despite the cheap labour from the primary sector, the manufacturing sector could not be expanded and absorbing the surplus labour. If the given trend persists, there is sufficient reason to worry about the health of organised manufacturing sector in the Indian economy. In view of the absorption of the surplus labour, and expansion of the output (GVA), both require a serious concern and attention. The author argues that the economists may rethink the Lewis assumption in the Indian condition and the way forward.

The article titled "Decoupling Economic Growth and Employment: A Comprehensive Analysis of India's Jobless Growth Phenomenon" by Ashwani Kumar Gupta, Aviral Mishra, Saurabh Kumar Srivastava and Sourav Mondal investigates the phenomenon of jobless growth in India and examines its impact on employment from 2000 to 2022. The article also focusses on sectoral shifts, labour market dynamics, and policy effectiveness during the process of creating new jobs. Employing a quantitative approach, the study uses secondary data from sources like CEIC and NSSO, applying trend analysis, structural break analysis, decomposition analysis, correlation, and multiple regression techniques. The authors argue that the stated jobless growth assessment tool could assist job creators, policymakers, and service providers in designing and evaluating their initiatives and could use them as baseline data. Understandably, the paper does not suggest what goals, priorities, and development strategies a sector, either informed or formal, should pursue in order to improve jobs for living status.

Roshan Kumar and Shakti Kant Sharma have systematically overviewed the technological unemployment literature, focussing on how developing technologies affect employment dynamics, income inequality, and job displacement. The study uses Vos-Viewer to analyse publication trends, citation networks, and theme clusters in 124 Scopus publications on the subject under study. The study emphasises the need to balance technological benefits with worker protections and offers a holistic strategy to technological unemployment that includes policy

and educational improvements. The authors believe that conducting longitudinal studies, policy and training assessments, and cross-country analyses will enhance comprehension of these matters and their ethical consequences in due course.

The study by Poonam Magu focusses on Countering Jobless Growth and Unemployment Through Meaningful Entrepreneurship Education. The paper examines the entrepreneurial intentions of students nearing graduation who have studied one paper of entrepreneurship in their final year. The findings reveal that while most students are not inclined to start a business right away, 62 per cent of them are interested in pursuing entrepreneurship at some point in the future. The study also reveals that a number of students in the sample area want to take up jobs rather than start an entrepreneurial venture due to finances crunch. The study suggests that the students should be trained at the graduation level to set up incubation centers where they could be helped to develop sustainable business ideas. The author further suggests that the universities and business management institutions could also make use of their alumni and “local experts” to help guide the students. The opening of clubs can also be a big help, the further holds review. Finally, the author concludes that entrepreneurship education is essential for the growth and development of an economy of the nation.

Kumar and Chandel’s paper on “Technological Advancements and the Paradox of Jobless Growth: A Comparative Analysis” discusses the need and scope of jobless growth led by technological advancements through comparative analysis in different countries. Methodologically, a mixed-method design has been employed with secondary data from multiple sources, including employment statistics and impact studies of automation. The authors argue that the extent of jobless growth varies between regions, and that is why some countries have successfully managed to handle the manifestations through proactive labour policies and investments in new sectors. The analysis further reveals that the significant job displacement is found in traditional sectors primarily in high-tech industries. Countries like the United States, Germany, Japan, and India exhibit varied impacts and responses based on their economic structures, technological adoption rates, and policy interventions. Key trends identified include job polarisation, increased wage inequality, and sectoral shifts from manufacturing to service-oriented and high-tech sectors. Effective policy responses, such as vocational training, social safety nets, and innovation incentives, play a crucial role in mitigating the adverse effects of technological

change. However, the authors feel that further research is needed to refine our understanding of its long-term effects and to develop effective strategies that ensure economic growth benefits all segments of society. The authors suggest that such findings obtained from this study can provide valuable information to policymakers, economists, and other individuals involved in creating labour markets that are both adaptable and inclusive in response to swift technological advancements globally. The paper by Arul Sulochana Yesudas, Hemasree M., and D. Allen Rose Shamini, "Impact of Institutional Support and Barriers on Youth Employment: A Study with Special Reference to Educational Settings" is an attempt to investigate the relationship between educational institution support and institutional barriers on youth employment. Despite the expansion of educational institutions, many graduates struggle to secure employment. The study examines the extent of influence of these factors on youth employment rates and income levels. The authors quantify that employment rate is employed as the dependent variable, while educational institution support and institutional barriers are considered independent variables. Methodologically, Pearson's correlation coefficient is utilized to assess relationships among the variables, and multiple linear regression is employed to determine the impact of these factors on youth employment. Findings indicate that career counselling services significantly influence youth employment rates, emphasizing the need for targeted guidance. The study identifies a lack of practical training opportunities and limited access to internships as primary barriers to youth employment. The results highlight the importance of aligning educational programmes with labour market demands to enhance youth employability, especially in the context of 'jobless growth'.

The study "Financial Inclusion and Unemployment: Evidence from Tribals of Jharkhand" by Samir Xavier Bhawnra and K.B. Singhains to examine the association between employment and demographic factors like income, age, and gender. The study explores how the occupation and income of an individual affect the usage of financial inclusion among the tribal community of Jharkhand. Statistically, primary data from five districts of Jharkhand, which have at least 33 per cent population of tribal, have been collected through a structured questionnaire. Data collected from 500 tribal respondents of the total sample size (10 per cent) have been analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation, and chi-square tests. The study finds that there was a higher level of unemployment rate among the women than the men.

The study further reveals that a considerable percentage of tribal women have not taken up professional activities, and most of them have taken up agriculture as their primary occupation. This finding has little variation from the findings of an earlier study conducted by the Jharkhand Economic Survey 2023-24, where there is a higher level of unemployment among the tribal women of Jharkhand. The authors conclude that some policy level interventions are needed to improve the employment ratio of tribal women in both, the study area and in the State of Jharkhand as a whole.

To conclude, jobless growth and unemployment have always been a challenging issue that needs to be looked at globally. Henceforth, core policies and institutions should be built to create more opportunities to involve complimentary actions to stimulate overall growth, particularly job creation for the poor and the socially marginalized groups of society through credit facilities and infrastructural developments. Moreover, social and institutional barriers need to be removed. The security of the poor should be enhanced by reducing their vulnerability to economic shocks, natural disasters, ill health, and personal violence. The government and civil society have to create a conducive environment for the poor to get 'jobs for living' and build intelligence.

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