

A TREND ANALYSIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN ASSAM

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Abstract: Unemployment is a condition whereby by an individual is seeking for a job but unable to find it. Unemployment rates post covid-19 has shown a declining trend but the problem of unemployment still prevails in the state. This paper makes an analysis of changing total unemployment rate, urban and rural unemployment rate and male and female unemployment rate in the state of Assam. To analyse the authors have made use of secondary data from several sources.

Keywords: Unemployment, gender gap, Assam.

1. Introduction: Assam is an agrarian based economy almost 69% of the total population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Due to its unique geographical landscape large scale production of paddy is not possible which can be considered a major and prime source of income for many. The farmers of the state are not large scale producers and therefore most farmers are small land holders. Since, the numbers of industries are low in number and farmers cultivate only single crop (most farmers) the problem of unemployment is very significant. The state faces the seasonal unemployment the most along with disguised unemployment simultaneously. “Unemployment, according to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), is people above a specified age (usually 15) not being in paid employment or self-employment but currently available for work during the reference period. Unemployment is measured by the unemployment rate, which is the number of people who are unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (the total number of people employed added to those unemployed)”. The problem of unemployment can be correlated to different goals of Sustainable Development, Goal- 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 & 9. So, when a person remains unemployed he will be unable to attain these stated goals. The unemployment rates rising at an alarming rate reflects the lack of investment in the state. Due to unavailability of jobs both in organised and unorganised sector the out migration of people to different states has increased over the time.

2. Objective of the study:

- i) To analyse the trend unemployment rate in Assam.
- ii) To analyse the trend of urban and rural unemployment rate in Assam.
- iii) To analyse the trend of gender gap unemployment rate in Assam.

3. Methodology: The study is based on secondary data. Data are collected from Periodic Labour Force Survey reports, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

4. Review of Literature: A study conducted in Assam revealed the dire condition of educated unemployed. The study also revealed gender gap unemployment difference where the females

were largely unemployed. It was found that the existing education system is not compatible for providing jobs. The rural female suffers more than the urban in terms of unemployment. The researcher suggested for the development of internship programme for the students in college and university and also for the modernisation of education system which matches today's needs as a job seeker. (Deka, 2021)

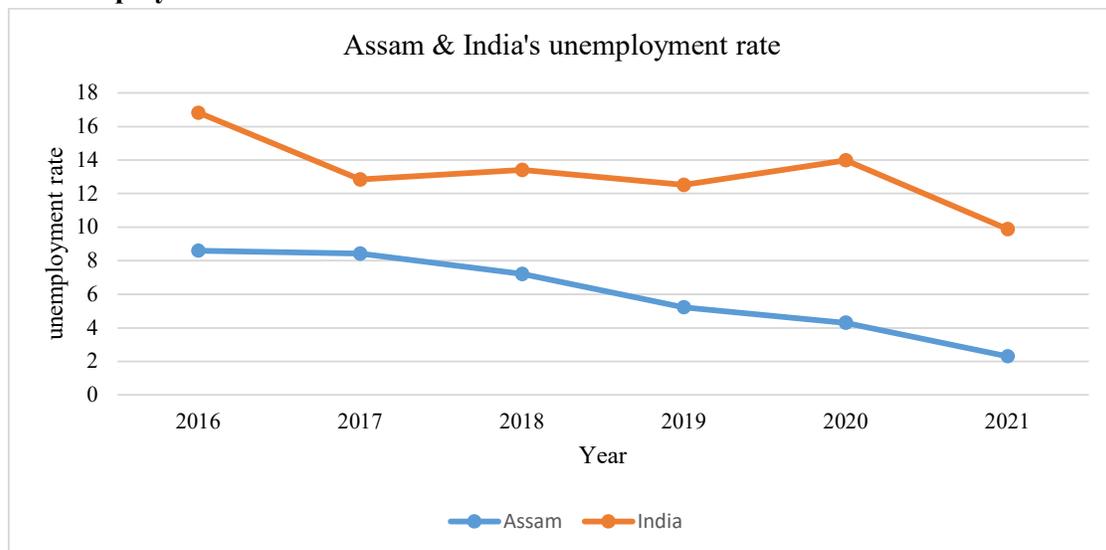
The problem of economic development in North East India and limited jobs availability which results educated youth unemployed has a positive correlation. The problem of youth unemployment is more severe in urban than in rural areas due to agrarian society in rural areas. The study also exposed the prevalence of higher female unemployed than male in both urban and rural. The researcher suggested for a better policy formulation by the government in targeting to reduce the unemployment in North East India. (Marchang, 2019)

The problem of unemployment was identified by the government at the time of independence itself and this challenge was embraced and various policies were initiated by the government to minimise this problem. (Biswas, 2016)

A study in Kerala revealed the out migration of the citizens due to rising unemployment. The Educated youths qualification didn't meet the present requirements this lead to low productivity jobs. The female unemployment rates were also high in the state. The researcher has challenged whether the government spending on education has able to contribute in employment. The researcher suggests government to spend on productive activities so that it will lead to employment generation. (Azeez & Akhtar, 2014)

A study on tenth five year plan, the study revealed the rising unemployment primary and secondary sector. The rural female were more unemployed than male. The employment in the unorganised sector has increased, one third of all workers in the state are employed as casual workers 85 percent of total workers are male which shows disadvantageous position of women in the state. (Bhaumik, 2002)

5. Unemployment in Assam:

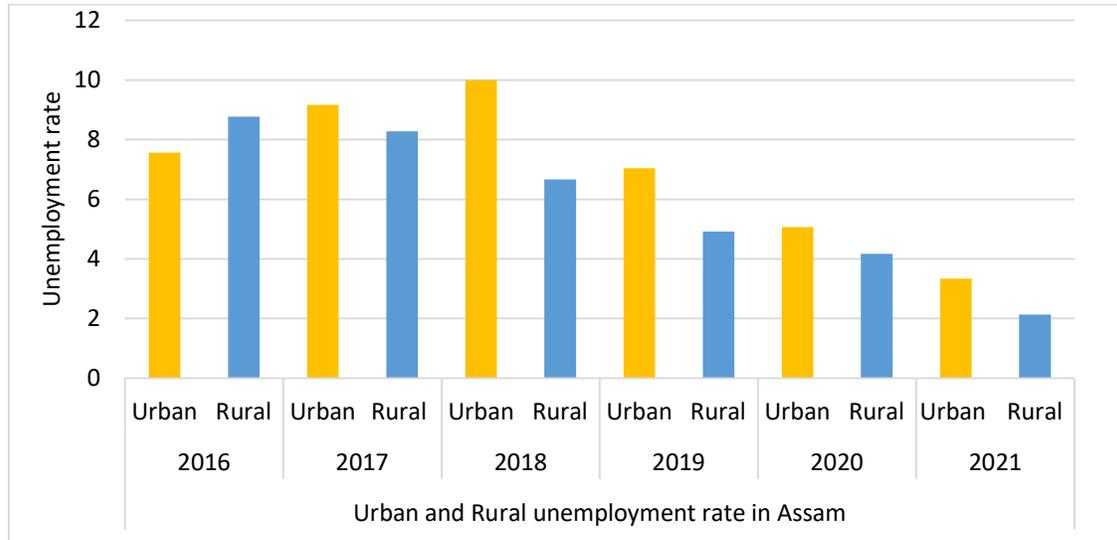


Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

The overall unemployment rate of Assam from 2016 to 2021 shows a declining trend. From 2019 to 2021 the unemployment rate is low when compared to national level. The reason for

decrease in unemployment in last few years may be due to various policies undertaken by the government to reduce the unemployment rate. In 2020-2021 there is a massive decline in unemployment rate because people shifted towards more precarious and informal types of work, self-employment has also increased post pandemic.

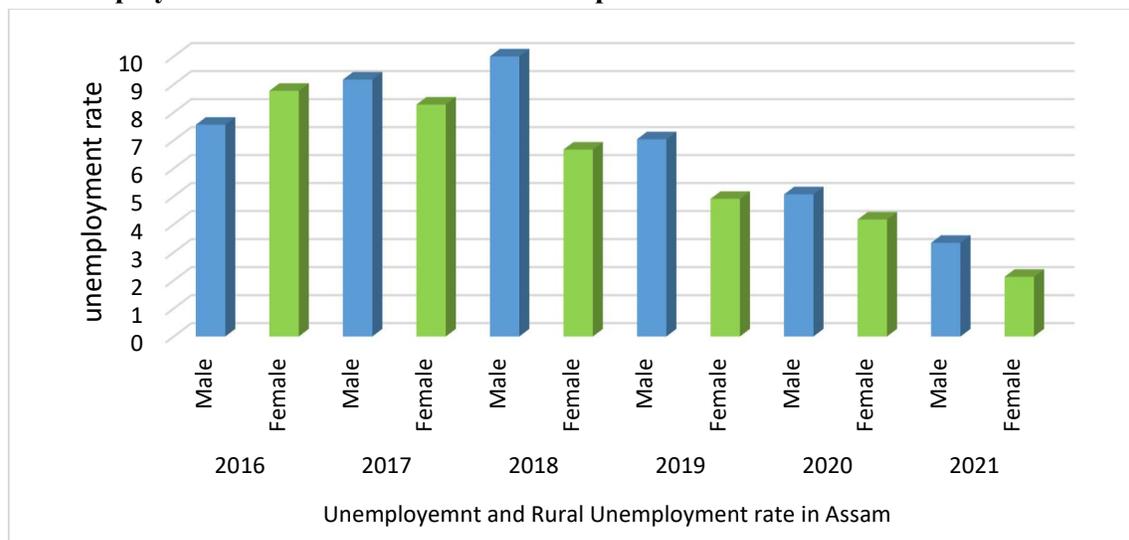
6. Unemployment rate in Assam & India of Male & Female:



Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

The trend of rural unemployment rate over the period of study shows a declining trend. The decline in the unemployment over the period of the study can be attributed to various employment generation scheme, simultaneously people started their own business or start-ups in the urban areas which reduced the unemployment rate from 10% in 2018 to 3.34% in 2021. The downward trend of unemployment trend can also be proved due to the decrease in the working age population which resulted from COVID-19 where lot of workers died in the pandemic.

7. Unemployment rate of Male and Female Population of Assam:



Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

The trend of male unemployment in the state shows a swinging trend whereas the unemployment of female over the period of study shows a decreasing trend. There was a significant fall of unemployment rate for female in 2020 and 2021. Similarly, male unemployment rate fell to 2.39% in 2021 from 4.26% in 2020. From the trend it can be observed that the gender gap unemployment is significant. This gap in the labour force is due to gender discrimination, societal norms & beliefs, preference of male in job place.

8. Causes of unemployment:

a) Lack of Industries: The prevalence of rareness of industries in the state forces the people to move to different states in search of job. In other words, due to scarcity of industries people who are willing to get employment are unable to do so. Moreover, there is a mismatch between the skills people have and the jobs they are being offered leading to structural unemployment.

b) Outdated Education System: The education system prevalent in the country & state is the same one which was followed during British rule which doesn't meet needs of today's society. Moreover, the distribution of technical institution is limited to cities only and the cost of pursuing higher education is also very high which acts as obstruction to the poor students.

c) Lack of Skill Training: Despite of poor education system, the state faces poor skills among the labour force which enables him/her to find an employment. Moreover, the government is also a failure in implementing the various skill enhancement programme. Also, those who have skill migrates to other state or country for a better job.

d) Societal Norms and Beliefs: The people of the state have their own perception, norms and beliefs regarding the working of women, people are reluctant to support them in defence services and at the same time women don't find it safe in doing late night private sector jobs due to security issues. So, all these add up to the large unemployment of women.

e) Presence of corruption in job recruitment: Bribing the high officials in order to get a government job has become a serious problem in the state. Leakage of question papers in various government jobs has demoralize the unemployed youth and has generated a low confidence in the society. People prefer to start their own business rather than applying for a government job.

9. Findings: From the analysis it can be seen the unemployment rate over the period of study has decreased. The urban unemployment is still greater than the rural unemployment also the gender gap unemployment is significant. The lack of industries can be regarded as a prime factor in prevalence of unemployment in the state.

10. Conclusion: So it can be concluded from above analysis that the unemployment rate though has decreased over the period of the study still remains a significant problem for the state. The Gender gap unemployment rate is a major concern which has decreased post pandemic. The need of the hour is to enhance the skills of the labour force, improve the existing education system and create an environment for FDI and industries in the state.

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