Social Challenges Faced By Unemployed Youths of Capital City of Jharkhand: A Glimpse from India

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Abstract: *This is qualitative research on the social challenges faced by unemployed youths. The study is conducted in the capital city of Jharkhand, India. This research study includes unemployed youth, both male & female with minimum education level of bachelor's degree. The study tries to cover the acceptance of such youths at social level, and the social challenges faced by them due to being an unemployed person. Through in-depth interviews and observation methods, the findings have been presented in this paper.*

Keywords— Social challenges, unemployed youth, behavior, social acceptance, India

1. INTRODUCTION

Employment is one of the key factors to get social status among friends and family. Being an educated person but being unemployed for quite some time is not easy to get social acceptance in the society. This un-manageable challenge faced by lot of youths have impacted their self-esteem and confidence in some way or the other. Although society in this modern age has lot of openness towards the reality of available job opportunities and the number of unemployed candidates, even though sometimes the topic of unacceptability gets felt by such needy youths. The study of this social challenges faced by unemployed youths have been conducted in the capital city of Jharkhand state in India. A lot of new perspectives came into light which shows that the society is changing slowly in a positive way.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

2.1 The objectives of this study are:

1) To observe the social challenges faced by unemployed youths in terms of their acceptance.
2) To understand such a complex social situation faced by youths.
3) To learn from participants about their experiences (beliefs, motivations, opinions).
4) To understand such social phenomena deeply and in detail.

2.2 Major steps of this study:

1) Preparing & organizing the data: It means transcribing interviews or typing up the field notes.
2) Reviewing & exploring the data: It will examine the data for patterns or repeated ideas that emerged.
3) Developing a data coding system: Will establish a set of codes that can be applied to categorize the collected data.

4) Assigning codes to the data: This means going through each participant's responses and tagging them with certain codes in a spreadsheet.

The major steps that had been taken while doing this observational study were, first decided upon the goals of this social behavioral study. Secondly decided the participants who are to be observed, then gaining access or entry to that group of participants. Thirdly, build rapport with the participants who were part of the observation study. Finally, started conducting the study by observing and taking field notes. While doing such type of study, being able to deal with unavoidable crises or situation is always necessary, which may occur during any observational study. In the last part, finishing the observational study was important at the point when, repeated observational information was appearing, which meant that the data have saturated, and all the new participants were giving the same output. Then the data which was collected were analyzed and a conclusion was made.

3. METHODOLOGY USED

This qualitative study is conducted by being open minded, and not to be affected by personal biases. The questions asked to respondents will be specific in nature.

The methods used are:
1) Interviews / open ended questions
2) Observation

It is exploratory research.

3.1 TYPES OF ANALYSIS CONDUCTED FOR THE STUDY

1) Grounded Theory approach.
2) Content analysis: To describe and categorize common words, phrases, and ideas gathered through interviews.
3) Thematic analysis: To identify and interpret patterns and themes in the data.

4) Manifest analysis or a latent analysis.

3.2 Interview protocol:

Thank you for being a part of this research study on "Social challenges faced by unemployed youth of capital city of Jharkhand". I would be asking a few questions on the research topic and I would want you to give the answers with utmost honesty.

Please feel free to talk and be comfortable. I'm like your friend only. If it's ok with you then I'll be recording the interview, so that I can refer it later also. First, I would like to start with few basic questions on your educational & work-experience background.

Background related questions:
1. Please tell me about yourself. Your hobbies, interests or anything which you want to talk about.
2. How old are you?
3. Tell me about your educational background and your work-experience, if any.
4. How long have you been looking for a job?
5. What have you done to find a job?
    - Exams appeared?
    - Interviews attended?

For the next set of questions, I request you to express the answers & feelings in full details.

Social challenges related questions:
1. How does your family & friends treat you?
2. Do you get the acceptability in society being an unemployed?
3. How has unemployment affected your relationship with family & your friends?
4. Do you believe unemployment affects social status?
    - Elaborate if your answer is Yes or No.
5. Do you feel any peer pressure? Yes/No
    - If yes, please elaborate.
6. Do you think unemployment has affected your motivation, confidence & self-esteem?
    - Can you please elaborate.
7. How has unemployment affected your physical & mental health?
    - physical health – Blood pressure, headache, insomnia
    - mental health – anxiety, stress, suicidal thoughts
8. Has unemployment affected your marriage prospects?
    - Difficulty in match making
9. Is there anything else which you want to share?

Thank you for your time & sharing your answer.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the standard United Nations definition, "youth comprise the age group between 15 and 24 years inclusive. In practice, the operational definition of youth, or young people, vanes widely from country to country depending on cultural, institutional and political factors (Niall O'Higgins, 1997).

Unity and co-operation are considered as the base of prosperity (Ashitha Varghese & Dr.P.Nagaraj, 2012) among society, this is especially true for youths of the state of Jharkhand.

What it is to be male or female, masculine or feminine, in different social and cultural contexts may vary greatly and gender identity is clearly not reducible to any underlying biological dichotomy. It is through the process of socialization that individual youths learn the feelings, roles and practices typical of their cohorts or statuses within society (Parker et al. 2000).

As the population of India is more of youth, if youth are more educated, there will be a lot of development in the country. The youth population in India (13-35 years) was 459 million, constituting about 38 per cent of the total population of the country, and is expected to reach 574 million by 2020. In the age group of 15 to 29, the most youth population is having a high percentage of unemployment whereas other age groups are having less percentage of unemployment compared to youth population of Jharkhand state (Ajay Kumar Sharma et. al., 2014).

The Grounded Theory methodology is most suited to exploratory inquires which seek to build an understanding of particular phenomena. Data are systematically gathered and analyzed until saturation is reached (John Loonam, 2014).

Interviewing is a way to collect data as well as to gain knowledge from individuals. Kvale (1996, p. 14) regarded interviews as " … an interchange of views between two or more people on a topic of mutual interest, sees the centrality of human interaction for knowledge production, and emphasizes the social situatedness of research data."

As a consequence of unemployment, the individual may or may not experience poverty and deprivation, but not necessarily social exclusion. Social exclusion can be described as the process of becoming detached from the moral order or from prevailing norms in society (Room, 1995). In accordance with previous studies (e.g. Berghman, 1995), social exclusion may be described as a dynamic and multidimensional concept. Employment promotes social integration, but unemployment may not necessarily imply social isolation (T. Hammer, 2000).

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This qualitative research study will use interview method in which open ended questions are asked. It will also include the observation method while interviewing. The study will be focused on the unemployed youth only, including both males & females, to understand their social status, level of respect they get in society, their confidence level, their economic backup, their value in marriage market, how their relatives perceive them being unemployed, their life goals & aspirations and their level of involvement in social activities.
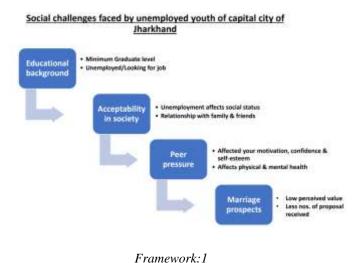
In this exploratory research, we won't go by any prior theory. It means this exploratory research does not include any hypothesis. Observation was used to collect data by watching the behavior at a social gathering event (marriage reception, new house inauguration, birthday celebration, Christmas gathering, New Year's celebrations) in which the people being observed were present.

It was a non-participant observation study. It was a kind of covert observation, in which no one knows they are being observed and the observer is concealed. The reason for choosing covert observation is that, people are more likely to behave naturally if they do not know they are being observed.

The observation was more direct in nature. A direct observation is when we watch interactions, processes, or behaviors as they occur. Field note is prepared from this observation study. A field note is an open-ended narrative data which can be noted or written down.

The primary sampling method used for this observation was Event Sampling. In an event sampling observation method, the researcher decides beforehand what events or behavior he will record and which ones he is going to ignore.

5.1 Framework and coding table

Framework:1

The coding table is shown below:

Code	Observation
Self-esteem	• Employed people had confident body language. The body language of unemployed youth was less confident. • While talking the voice of unemployed people was low and reflected lack of self-confidence and self-worth.
Body posture	• Unemployed youth themselves felt less valued at social gatherings. Their body posture did not look confident. Employed youths present during the observation, looked confident in their body postures. • Employed youth were more approachable and walked with confidence whereas as the unemployed youth were less approachable and walked in a clumsy manner to avoid the crowd. • Employed youth mostly displayed an open body posture such as open arms while talking whereas the unemployed youth displayed closed body posture such as closed arms while talking.
Body language	• Employed people had confident body language. The body language of unemployed youth was less confident.
Level of enthusiasm	• Unemployed youths showed relatively lesser enthusiasm as compared to other

	employed people, while interacting in a social event.
Manner of eating	• Eating speed of unemployed youth were little faster than other people. They finished their food earlier than other employed people. Even during the eating process, the unemployed people showed lesser confidence, as indicated by their body language.
Meeting and greeting	• Unemployed youth themselves felt less valued at social gatherings. Their body posture did not look confident. Employed youths present during the observation, looked confident in their body postures. • Unemployed youths showed relatively lesser enthusiasm as compared to other employed people, while interacting in a social event. • Friends and relatives meet and greet with employed and unemployed people equally. • Employed youth had greeted people with firm handshake. Unemployed youth greeted people with less firm handshake and were also not upfront in approaching people for a handshake.
Topics of conversation	• Employed people had more incidences/stories to talk while interacting in a social gathering. Unemployed youth

	listened more and talked less. They gave less inputs while interacting in a social gathering and avoided long conversations. • Unemployed youths tried to skip conversation on type of questions related to what they were doing these days. • It was an awkward situation for an unemployed youth if some uncle/aunty asked them about their life and what they do now. • Unemployed youths looked hesitant while talking on topics related to their marriage or career. • A few of the unemployed youth asked about job references and openings to the employed youth.
Nature of conversation	• Employed youth mostly maintained eye contact with people they talked to whereas the unemployed youth either did not maintain eye contact or could not hold the eye contact for longer periods. • Employed people had more incidences/stories to talk while interacting in a social gathering. Unemployed youth listened more and talked less. They gave less inputs while interacting in a social gathering and avoided long conversations. • While talking the voice of unemployed people was low and

	• reflected lack of self-confidence and self-worth. • They preferred to be part of conversations on general topics or conversations done in a group rather than a one-on-one conversation. • Unemployed youths spend more time and talk more with those who are students. While interacting with their friends and relatives, unemployed youths were more comfortable to mingle with those who are studying in schools or colleges.		• Employed youth looked happier at the social events. Unemployed youths smiled less often at such gatherings. • Unemployed youth were eager and anxious to leave the social gathering early rather than linger there for a longer duration.
Facial expression	• Employed youth mostly maintained eye contact with people they talked to whereas the unemployed youth either did not maintain eye contact or could not hold the eye contact for longer periods.	Seating location	• Employed youths occupied good/prominent places to sit, while the unemployed youths took distant and corner seats.
Treatment of people	• Friends and relatives meet and greet with employed and unemployed people equally. • While clicking pictures, people included everyone. There was no feeling of discrimination between employed and unemployed people in such type of social gatherings, during photo session.	Response in a situation	• It was an awkward situation for an unemployed youth if some uncle/aunty asked them about their life and what they do now. • Unemployed youths looked hesitant while talking on topics related to their marriage or career.
		Feelings/Emotions	• Unemployed youth themselves felt less valued at social gatherings. Their body posture did not look confident. Employed youths present during the observation, looked confident in their body postures. • Unemployed youth seemed lost in their thoughts and were less present in the moment.
Behaviour	• Unemployed youths showed relatively lesser enthusiasm as compared to other employed people, while interacting in a social event.	Personal grooming	• Unemployed youth were casual in their appearance. They did not pay much attention to their dressing style or personal grooming.

Table 1: Coding table

4.2 Coding used

- Self-esteem
- Body posture
- Body language
- Level of enthusiasm
- Manner of eating
- Meeting and greeting
- Topics of conversation
- Nature of conversation
- Facial expression
- Treatment of people
- Behavior
- Seating location
- Response in a situation
- Feelings/Emotions
- Personal grooming

6. LIMITATIONS

There were few limitations while conducting this behavioral study through observational method. It was highly likely, some of the occurrences were not open to observation. There were many personal behaviors or secret activities which were not open for observation. Not all the occurrences were open to observation can be observed even when observer was present. Social events are usually uncertain in nature. Most of the social phenomenon is abstract in nature. It becomes a difficult task for the researcher to determine their time and place. Nobody knows when such an event might take place. Two persons may judge the same phenomena differently. Personal bias of the observer again create difficulty for making valid generalization in observation. The observer may have his own ideas of right and wrong or he may have different pre-conceptions regarding an event which kills the objectivity in social research. The full answers cannot be collected by observation alone. Therefore, observation must be supplemented by other methods also. One cannot study opinions by this method. The problems of the past cannot be studied by means of observation.

7. CONCLUSION

The conducted qualitative study, to observe the social challenges faced by unemployed youths in terms of their social acceptance, in the capital city of Jharkhand, has shown a mixed conclusion. Quite a such mixed outcome indicates that, with time the social thinking towards unemployed youths have improved. People of different social class have started giving equal value to youths during social gathering. Although youths who are struggling to get a job, have relatively lower self-esteem and less confidence compared to employed youths. The youths of capital city of Jharkhand have high expectation from themselves as well as from their family members. Lastly it can be concluded that, friends and family have been the motivating factor towards the preparation for getting an employment.

8. REFERENCES

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