

## **A Perspective on the Global Unemployment**

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### **Introduction**

The challenge of the global unemployment has been a crucial concern for the modern world. Very unfortunately, the situation is aggravated by the coronavirus pandemic. According to Al Jazeera English TV and observation based on the information from OECD and International Monetary Fund, the number of unemployment is surging possibly up to two billion across the world. Some of the possible elements associated in the issue are – general perception towards employment, condescending to the certain jobs and the excessive usage of machine. As a result, we are witnessing the ascending number of unemployment by surfacing the ultimate adverse result in the form of homelessness. However, a reviewed and retrospective form of education can be one principal force to help this principal challenge transform.

### **In and Around the Employment**

In order to earn money, if an adult is not able to get a job in a sector of goods and services, the person is counted as unemployed. Here, the prejudiced social setting, economic condition, and in fact, mental attitude are the key contributions to the existing unemployment scenario.

The industrial revolutions and market economy have structured contemporary social system, governments, more importantly education accordingly. Then, the power of money and the role banking have created a coercion for the world to be part of the consumerism and labor force. The coercion makes us all work behind the bar of goods and services. In such environment, employee should work under a fixed format prescribed by employer wherein freedom and dignity are usually compromised with pay.

Pressure and tension become routine as the employer's desires and objectives are materialized under their hierarchical power. Thus, employment paradigm has become mere a paid slavery system. The independent and autonomous taste of life has vanished all over. The so-called salaried people are not able to afford creativity. Their time for relaxation, family and friends are getting way far off the reach.

We may look at a different situation of employment and unemployment. In a perspective; some people eke out their livelihood independently running small family businesses and farming. In the so-called developing countries, many people are independently working with the least tension. Even though they undergo some amount of economic challenges, and even they cannot afford modern-luxurious items, they live without knowing homelessness and unemployment.

### **A Narrowing Farming Avenue**

Somewhere in the course of the industrial revolutions, we are conditioned to condescend the inevitability of farming and cultivation. The government, corporates and society combined have enforced the peasants and agricultural-workers to get the least out of their essential contribution. Although, we tend to forget these people are on the frontline of productions, whether like it or not, during the coronavirus pandemic it reminds us of the fact.

The collective response affects the prospect and motivation of this fundamental occupation for human. Our modern thinking and attitude continue to limit the essential avenue of farming and laborers especially to the educated youths. It results in the expansion of unemployment among young people.

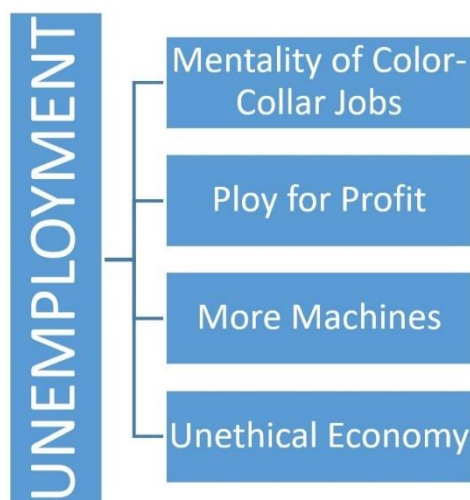
A crucial reality is the ever-growing force of the globalization. This force storms out farmers and peasants' feet pushing them into the domain of modern slavery. In the absence of the governments' supports, they are diminished when their products fail to get into the market. Because, the market is controlled and designed by the corporate powers. Thus, the millions of farmers fail to survive the cruel monopoly of agro-based production and market. In the agrarian countries like India, hundreds of thousands of farmers have committed suicide. According to my independent assessment based on the multiple Indian media reports over the years, about 31 farmers in India commit suicide every day owing to the blow of poverty over the last ten years (The Wire, 2019). They die before the dishonor of being tiny loan defaulters of about \$100. The tragedy is highlighting the very dangerous reality in the green economy sector.

### **Taken Over by Machine:**

Another relevant element is the connection between the unemployment and the ever-increasing utility of machines. Of course, labor force can be helped with the machines. Usually, the manual workers face harsh physical involvements and handle the health hazardous conditions. For example, machines can help workers minimize the uncomfortable cleaning activities, providing a safer convenience reducing the hazardous effects and disturbing working conditions.

In regard with the objectives of machines and technologies – they do not take vacations, sick leaves and smoke breaks. It is an interesting aspect! Maybe this aspect is one of the reasons for multiplying the artificial intelligence, robots, auto-drive vehicles and hands-free machines ever more. They are taking on the color-collar jobs leaving out humans towards the unemployment hiccups that getting frequented to choke.

Most of the people who have commonsense will opine that machines should not replace human jobs. To make happen artificial intelligence to work in place of human cognition is to belittle human mental ability, and to extend manufacturing more machines is simply to shun our manual skills. Above all, it is rising of less jobs for human fellows which is always a worse eventuality. An Oxford University study has warned that machines are to take away 47 percent of the US jobs (Frey, 2013). More or less, this similar situation can come up everywhere across the globe.



### **Figure 1: Parts of Unemployment**

Perhaps, given the job creation in the sector of AI and machine industry, it may serve some careers as primary employment. Also, maybe there are to open alternative avenues as secondary sector for jobs. For instance, all engage in stock exchange trading and investment businesses in AI and machine makings. Trading at stock exchange will be a situation again back to the gambling reality of possible loss is higher than winning chance or sometimes luckily 50-50. There is no guarantee of a good livelihood security in stock trading.

In addition to the job-taken-over issue, whenever, new machines are made, they are also made out of the natural resources. It means materials are extracted from Mother Earth. Not only this, in the manufacturing process, they consume energy, give out carbon and other pollutants. And, the beauty of engaging human intelligence in various domains of our living is far important for a creative and meaningful continuation. The artificial intelligence will have a hard time to replicate the natural emotions and original feelings.

Seriously, as machines and AI are concerned, human psychology cannot be manipulated 100 percent. Hence, the boredom will remain a big deal, and the value and taste of life cannot be compromised so readily. The plastic flowers, sex dolls and robotic pets maybe work but are of much limited short moments. Every next moment we will need real stuff since humans are made for the same.

### **Color-collar jobs**

As the industrial revolution advances, the emergence of categorization of work to make money is seen. Based on various classes of work, it has referred colors to the jobs – from white-collar which is a salaried professional, typically referring to general office workers and management to gold-collar which refers to skilled knowledge people like chartered accountants, lawyers, doctors, research scientists, etc.

By wanting to leave behind cultivation and manual labors, people began landing on other less manual types. The modern education, capitalist market, globalization and (commercial) advertisement propaganda have stimulated human mind towards grabbing the least physically involved economic activities. The expansion of market, trade and commerce created more new category of jobs available to the people. It has projected as more dignified, a superior class, and more intelligence by setting a hierarchical structure.

In doing so, education especially right from the higher school level has started absorbing all the conceptual aspects, know-how, and picturizing a good prospect of career from the market and profit-oriented trade and commerce. Every aspect of human livelihood, activities, and lifestyle affiliated too much to the features of commercialization. Nothing left on the spectrum, from child care supposed to be parents'/guardians' job, to the education which is always a fundamental undertaking for everyone. Everything has been packaged in the form of saleable and buyable goods and services creating all sorts of jobs in the process. Thus, each adopted a certain color-collar assignment designation now.

### **A Result: Homelessness**

During my younger years, I got that very kind of shocking impression to see the beggars and homeless people in and around Indian railway stations. It is because we do not have such destitution in my native land, Manipur, eastern India. Also, because I have not seen that hardship with my real eyes, though I have heard lot about. However, the unwanted scenes were gradually taken for granted to some extent. May be with an unfair excuse that things happen routine like this in India. Then, in 2009, I came across a handful of homeless people including women in the streets of New York City. I was totally stunned. Because I had not heard of such reality in America, because the USA is not Indian sub-continent. We, living in

a third world country never expected that ugly reality. We feel usually much pity for the developed-westerners who are suddenly suffering from such hardship for we learnt that the westerners have lived a very easy lifestyle amidst the much comforts and conveniences. They have not engaged in the hard type of manual works, yet, they have earned good money. They do not walk long distance to fetch water and firewood, only they know to buy things, say bottle water, open it, and use it.

But today, suddenly, the nightmare has been looming so heavy upon those city-people who never imagined such before. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, about 8 million people in the USA and UK were struggling homelessness. According to my assessment based on the information from the UN Human Right Commission, American Institutes for Research and National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, over 6 million Americans including more than 2.5 million children were homeless in the USA landscape. More than 1.5 million Brits are living in destitution in which 365,000 of them are children (Mirror, 2018). About 125,000 people in Australia, 150,000 in France and 5 million in Russia encounter homelessness. The great fear is that ever more multiplied millions of homeless people will be surfaced due to job loss during the corona pandemic.

It has spread like another pandemic over the plenty places of the new world order. Cannot even imagine the world of hunger and hard time in the freezing air, the tough life struggling today, so hard not enabling to think for tomorrow, only waiting to pass the day.

The reality is of the very tearful condition for the innocent kids, continuous sexual violence upon the women, unhygienic amenities – no proper place for defecation and urination, very smelly and abhorring surroundings. In order to manage the pain and rough time, many of the homeless people abuse drugs and substances. And, in order to survive, crimes are to be committed, what else; just be a part of the rattling vicious cycle.

### **Independent Way of Living: A Solution**

A question comes in my mind – Why there is no crisis of homelessness in such a poor place of third world country where I come from? The growing homelessness and destitution have been happening in the urban and suburban landscape. Although, people are economically poor and not able to afford the present trend of consumerism, and they are undergoing displacement and eviction due to government's anti-people so-called developmental projects, in the rural areas, they still stick around the traditional land-owning system and indigenous culture of sovereign local economy.

In general, the village economy is somewhat independent of the globalized network and manageable with the individual micro-level-debt and community support as well. Whereas urban lifestyle is more or less sealed by macro-grid-structure. Once someone undergoes job loss from multinational companies or from their smaller offshoots, their lives are exposed to the sudden rough sleep as there is no roof over their heads.

The challenge of unemployment can be seen connecting to a more psychological dimension. This is attached to the dependent lifestyle. In the case of an independent lifestyle – the minds of villagers are usually managed with minimal requirements of simple material possessions. In the minds of people living in the urban and suburban setting, a physical nature is involved so strongly because they are much compelled to the more material possessions.

The accelerating speed of urbanization affecting the rural areas of the less developed countries is an alarming apprehension as their independent small economy is hijacked by the forceful global market economy spree. Why not, we let the rural economy grow with the optimum status quo. It could be the best policy.

Having said that the quality and quantity of current structure and style of the village community is not that perfect. There are rooms for improvement in terms of supports and

renovation towards strengthening and building it a wholesome one. But always the adjective, 'sovereign and independent' should be a fundamental concern for the case.

Likewise, how the unemployment and job loss in the urban crowd be rescued is much connected to the independent structure of micro-economy organizations in suburban and rural landscapes. Since, the miseries and the crisis are caused by culture, economy and psychology, given this basis, advocacy and project execution need to be realigned.

### **Education**

As far as unemployment is concerned, the role of education in the issue is very crucial. Perhaps, other than pick up literate ability of reading and writing, education is a learning process through which the modification of our thinking and its consequent behavior is intended. It is related to the cognitive aspect of thinking and awareness. Also, from a critical perspective, the rat race crowd considers education empowering people to be successful in attaining high pay jobs; it appears a good lever for survival strategy to the general population to enable go shopping, pay bills, and die then.

After considering the unfavorable reality, to me, 'education', in addition to the learning process, is a refreshing energy to identify the good, then, to separate the bad in and around human beings, and to apply the good over the bad. Eventually, it is all about rationality towards exercising wisdom and justice to enable a good journey of human life.

Education will be a matter of great benefits if it empowers the students to find the purpose in their life, and enabling them freedom of life choices. But there have been dead ends; students are not entitled to move along the way they like, the fields they are gifted with are out of the avenues. The flow of their creativity is bottlenecked, and their original interests are seized in the industrial mainstream. No option, but they have to ride a career, the one has the potential to be drawn with money, good perks and profit. Everyone follows the herd failing to break the useless line of the same bitter examination which has been applied to the students of variant abilities. There, education ends up in the project of examinations – finally, all different animals; monkey, bird, horse, cow, fish have to climb the same tree.

Also, a wish is, if the education that should be able to encourage the society, community to extend the same respect equally to the farmers, scavengers, cleaners and dishwashers, peasants, laborers as we do to the IT professionals, engineers, doctors, professors, etc.

If the schools, colleges and universities have infused the value-loaded knowledge adequately to the world, there will be a less challenge of unemployment. Logically human beings would lead a happy life leaving tensions and injustice behind. The existing reality is otherwise. There are more courses to promote marketing, profit-making and pushing growth. Instead, there could have more applied courses related to identifying real challenges faced by the blue planet, and connected to initiating actions in order to transform and resolve the active problems.

However, education has become a device to disconnect us all from the real problems in this era of highly connected globalization. What we see now is the scarcity of problem-based learning to exercise solution-based education.

We do believe in consumerism well tempted by the commercial advertisements and market controlled by a few super-rich families of the bankers and corporates. We want to have money and go shopping as much as we can. Is it an ever-growing phenomenon that we are getting uneducated in many ways?

### **Conclusion**

Family, friends and community altogether hold a sort of social normative acceptance that not living in urban zone, and job assigned with farming, cleaning and other physical involved are categorically inferior to. We look down upon non-urban residents and laborers less

dignified kind, and thus, active condescending is shown unnecessarily. This has been a culture in the most part of the global society. In return, this culture cause a factor to unemployment leading to a miserable life missing the consciousness about the true meaning of life and happiness. Again, housing and food pose a real big deal in the unemployment domain. They occupy the largest chunk in the average family expenditure pie that is about 70 percent of the annual income in the OECD nations. When we do not buy buildings in the crowded city, and live in grandparents' homestead by renovating their houses, cultivate own food in and around the houses, the tension of unemployment will be minimized, and can open up a fresh new lifestyle.

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### About the Author



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