

# Pakistan and Unemployment

Society is an integral part of any country. If it stabilizes, country prosperous. In Pakistan, there are numbers of social issues that are destabilizing the society. These social problems may further create political and economic predicaments. Among these, unemployment is the major one. Unemployment refers to a situation where people are unable to find jobs and to meet their livelihood. It is of different kinds; Structural, Seasonal, temporary, cyclical and voluntary unemployment are the important ones. Structural unemployment happens when the required skillset of the employer is different from the acquired skillset of the employees. Seasonal unemployment occurs when certain businesses do non-productive activities due to slack season. The time inbetween leaving a job and acquiring a new job refers to temporary unemployment. Cyclical unemployment takes place due to recession or depression in the market. Last but not least, voluntary unemployment occurs when people are not

willing to do a job or decide to remain unemployed due to their own will. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, total unemployment ratio in the state is 6.1%.

However, the country has 65% population below 35 years of age. This young population proves either asset or liability. If state provides proper and fair opportunities of employment to youth, this will prove<sup>an</sup> asset. On the contrary, this youth bulge may severely affected the country. On the absence of employment opportunities, this youth bulge may find other ways and indulge in illegal activities to meet their livelihood.

This may lead to an increase in violence, crime rate, terrorism, drug addiction, depression and anxiety, suicides, brain drain, poverty and affect overall economic system of the state.

Before discussing the solutions, it is imperative to find out the reasons behind unemployment. These reasons can be categorized into primary and secondary causes.

The primary causes of unemployment are the lack of liaison between educational institutes and market, job orientalism versus business orientalism, inefficient career counseling, unavailability of business incubation centers in universities and lack of ease of business facilities. Besides, secondary causes are the technological advancement, overpopulation and nepotism. Notwithstanding, state has already taken some steps to overcome unemployment, more is required. For this purpose, government must encourage small and medium enterprises and increase technical and vocational training institutions. Educational institutes must support internship programs and promote job fairs for students. Career advising office is a must in every institution. Research and innovation must be prioritized and government must financially support it. Ease of business facilities and easy capital system should be made available. Construction industry that is linked to further 44 industries must be promoted. By doing all these, unemployment can be bridled.