



A STUDY ABOUT EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF BTECH GRADUATES (2018-20) IN KERALA

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to know the current employment status of BTech graduates in Kerala. As there are 166 engineering colleges in Kerala and nearly one lakh students appear for the engineering entrance examination, it is very important to assess the quality of engineering education. In this study, it was found that nearly 75% of the graduates are unemployed (graduated from 2018-20) and also majority of the people who are employed are not working in their core fields. People are also unaware of the schemes that are offered by the government to eradicate unemployment. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, among 100 graduates nearly 73% of the graduates lost their job and 17.9% of them were able to continue the same job. About 9% got a new job & 3.8 % of the graduates experienced a salary cut which illustrates the effect this pandemic has created an impact on the economic scenario of the state

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Importance of Employment

Healthy means being in a state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing. In other words, we can say being healthy means having a job. Employment plays an important role in sustaining individual and societal wellbeing. The development of a nation can be conjured up easily by analyzing the employment rate. At the individual level, employment provides the necessary financial freedom and the power to take part in the decision-making process of society. It is important to impart financial freedom for all. All revolutions led by the proletariats over the world points to that conclusion. It also leads to economic and social development. Employment provides a chance to feel secure. According to Manikandan Viswanathan(LinkedIn, 2018) employment should be generated in rural areas for seasonal unemployed people. The government must take sufficient measures to ensure this.

1.2 Youth in Kerala

Kerala is the state with the highest literacy rate in all of India. So, It is of great importance to note what the youth of Kerala is up to. The fruits of this glorified information era are being reaped mostly by our youth. While most are being misguided, some of them are positively exploiting this new portal opened before them. Kerala youths have always been politically active. All the major political parties nurture their student federations. A study conducted by the the Centre for Development Studies

(CDS) Trivandrum(n.d), showed that the flow of Keralites to abroad continues, among many

reasons as better living conditions, different experiences, etc. The main reason is the state's inability to provide suitable jobs for the increasing number of educated youths.

The number of youth working in the industrial sector is also high. A quick look around the industries in Kerala and we can find underpaid youths, both educated and uneducated. The reason for this can be found in the population increase, not on par with the employment opportunities

1.3 Engineering Education in Kerala

The first engineering college formally came into existence on July 3, 1939, in Thiruvananthapuram. At that time, the college had an intake of 21 students for every three courses: - mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering. This college is now the college of engineering Trivandrum (CET) also acting as the headquarters of Kerala technological university. According to information provided by Kerala Engineering Architecture Medical Entrance Exam (n.d) currently, about 166 engineering colleges are offering a wide range of courses. Every branch has got its importance in the development process and balancing of society. Considering the statistics of 2020 about 1,10,250 students appeared for the Kerala engineering entrance exam (THE HINDU, JULY 16, 2020.). It depicts the high demand for engineering courses in the states. There are several universities like Mahatma Gandhi University, CUSAT, Kerala university, etc. but after 2014 the government of Kerala regularized the engineering system by bringing all the engineering colleges under one university called "APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University". The university has



currently a pass percentage of 50% in Electrical and Electronics engineering, 49% in Electronics and Communication, 47% in Computer science engineering, and finally 38% in Mechanical engineering. (THE TIMES OF INDIA, September 19, 2020)

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

2.1 Method: Online Study Via Google Form

A detailed questionnaire consisting of about 13 questions was sent to BTech graduates who graduated after 2018 via various social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram. The questionnaire was in the format of a google form in which the candidate can either fill their responses or write a short description regarding their answer. The study was taken among 100 BTech graduates and the study included both personal and professional questions. The study also analyzed the impact of Covid-19 on the graduates.

2.2 Sample Group Selected

100 BTech graduates who graduated from different universities were considered as a sample group. These selected individuals have graduated under different disciplines under BTech like Mechanical engineering, Civil engineering, Computer science, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Biotechnology, Electrical and communication engineering, etc, and were common between the age group of 20-25. 67.5% of the people who had taken the study through social media platforms are males and the rest females.

2.3 Study Questions

The following questions were asked to the graduates.

1. Name
2. Age
3. Sex
4. Marital status
5. Trade-in BTech
6. Employment status
7. Whether taken any additional course after BTech
8. Year of graduation
9. If unemployed how long have you been unemployed
10. If employed whether working on the core field
11. If not working in the core field then in which field are you working
12. Does covid-19 created an impact on you of the following
13. Suggestions to eradicate unemployment from the state.

3. RESEARCH ANALYSIS

3.1 General Overview About Study

This study was attended by 100 people who have been graduated from different universities (2018-20). The graduates were from disciplines like mechanical engineering, electrical and electronics engineering, electrical and communication engineering, civil engineering, and biotechnology. The majority of the graduates opted for mechanical engineering their trade and the least was observed in biotechnology. To be precise about 75 % of the graduates were unemployed and most of them were graduated in 2020 (70.8%) followed by 2019 and 2018. The majority of the graduates opted for a course less than three months followed by courses for less than one month, while 10.9% of the graduates opted for masters after graduation. When considering the graduates 45% of them are working on a field related to their core subject. And from those who are not working in their core field about 29.2% of them are working in the IT sector, 14.6% in management, and 8.3% in entrepreneurship. Considering the effects of Covid-19 about 73% of the graduates lost their job and about 9% of them got a new job. Moreover, 17.9 % of the graduates were able to continue their job and the rest experienced a salary cut-off.

3.2 Male and Female Unemployment Status.

Out of 79 males who participated in the study about 17 of them are employed and 62 of them are unemployed. When considering the female graduates about out of 25, about 8 are employed and 17 are unemployed.

Table 3.2 Male and Female Unemployment Status

MALE GRADUATES: 79	FEMALE GRADUATES: 25
EMPLOYED: 17 UNEMPLOYED: 62	EMPLOYED: 8 UNEMPLOYED 17

3.3 Most Unemployed Trade-in BTech.

The majority of the graduates who have cooperated with the study opted for mechanical engineering as their trade-in B. Tech. Others mainly opted for computer science, electrical and communication engineering, civil engineering, and biotechnology. From the study, it was evident that mechanical engineering was the trade of most unemployed graduates followed by civil engineering and electrical engineering. The most employed trade-in BTech was computer science engineering depicting the growth of IT sector nowadays.

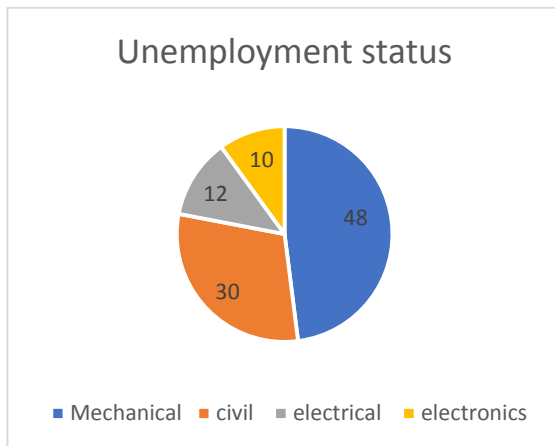


Figure 3.3 Chart illustrating the most unemployed trade-in B.Tech.

3.4 Impact of Covid-19

In September 2020, India saw an unemployment rate of over six percent. This was a significant improvement from the previous months. A damaging impact on an economy as large as India's caused due to a total lockdown was imminent. Unemployment went up to 24 percent on May 17, 2020. This was possibly a result of a decrease in demand as well as the disruption of the workforce faced by companies. Furthermore, this caused a loss of more than nine percent for the Indian economy that month. Between February and April 2020, the share of households that experienced a fall in income shot up to nearly 46 percent. Inflation rates on goods and services including food products and fuel were expected to rise later this year. Social distancing resulted in job losses, specifically those of Indian society's lower economic strata. Several households terminated domestic help services – essentially an unorganized monthly-paying job. Most Indians spent a large amount of time engaging in household chores themselves, making it the most widely practiced lockdown activity.

Considering the effects caused on the graduates in the state of Kerala, COVID-19 created an impact on about 73.11% of people to lose their jobs. On the other hand, due to the unavailability of people to work about 9% of the sample space got a new job concerning this pandemic. Furthermore, about 17.9% of the graduates were able to continue their jobs by “work from home” system and about 3.8% of people experienced a salary cut during this pandemic.

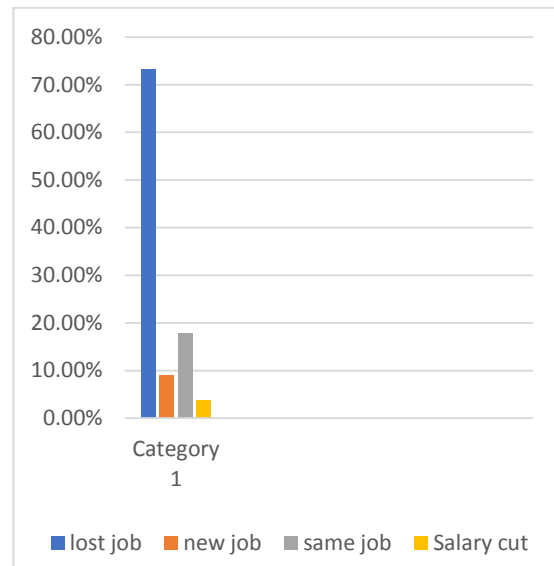


Figure 3.4 Effect of Covid-19

3.5 PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEMES FOR ERADICATING UNEMPLOYMENT

The Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) scheme was launched on 9th August 2016 to provide incentives to employers for the generation of new employment, this scheme had dual benefit where, on the one hand, the employer is incentivized for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishment, and on the other hand, these workers will have access to social security benefits of the organized sector.

The Ministry is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for the transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment-related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships, etc. The NCS Portal (www.ncs.gov.in) was dedicated to the Nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 20.07.2015. (Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2020)

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Conclusion

The problem of unemployment is rising but still many industries are facing the problem of a skilled candidate for their company. There is a boom of software companies, Outsourcing companies in Kerala, but still facing the problem of unemployment. The study was taken via google form ultimately gave an overall image of the recent B.Tech graduate in Kerala state. The study suggested that the unemployment crisis is very severe and is basically due to a lack of a proper education system. It also suggested the lack of skilled training and also proper



planning by government authorities. This study also illustrated the impact of covid-19 on graduates.

4.2 Recommendation

The participants of the study suggested some measures to eradicate unemployment, initially they suggest improving job opportunities and also to promote the growth of start-up companies. Skill-oriented education emphasized more practical field training. Some suggested the importance of awareness among their parents about quality education and the unemployment crisis. Furthermore, a major proportion also suggested work-based learning and implementation of the skill development centre. The government should keep a strict watch on the education system and try to implement new ways to generate a skilled labour force. The government should select a committee to look after the schools and universities. The syllabus taught is of less use to the industries so the education should be as per the current requirements of the industries. Before completing the education, practical knowledge should be given.

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