



Research of Unemployment: A Historical Study of Post-Independence India

Jahangir Alam, Research Scholar, Dept. of History, CMJ University, Jorabat, Meghalaya, India

Abstract

Unemployment has remained a significant economic and social challenge in post-independence India, reflecting changes in population, economic structure, labour markets, education, technology, and development policies. This historical study examines the nature, causes, and changing patterns of unemployment in India from independence to the contemporary period. The study traces the evolution of unemployment through different phases of economic development, including the early planning period, agricultural transformation, industrialization, economic reforms after 1991, and the expansion of the service sector. Particular attention is given to rural and urban unemployment, educated unemployment, seasonal and disguised unemployment, youth unemployment, and changes in the structure of employment. The research uses historical records, government reports, census publications, labour-force surveys, economic plans, and relevant secondary literature to examine long-term trends and policy responses. It also considers the influence of population growth, limited employment opportunities, regional disparities, skill mismatches, technological changes, and shifts from agriculture toward non-agricultural activities. Various government programmes and employment-generation initiatives are discussed in relation to their objectives and historical context. The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how unemployment has evolved alongside India's economic and demographic transformation. By examining historical patterns and policy developments, the research highlights the complex relationship between economic growth and employment generation and identifies major issues that have shaped India's labour market since independence.

Keywords: Unemployment, post-independence India, labour market, employment generation, educated unemployment, rural unemployment, urban unemployment, economic development, labour policy, historical study.

