

Full Length Research Paper

Effects of unemployment rural youth on rural development (ORIC-13-03)

Muhammad Imran Khurram¹, Tahir Munir Butt^{2,3*}, Babar Shahbaz⁴, Shakeel Ahmad¹, Muhammad Abdul Rahman¹, Usman Shakoor⁵, Badar Naseem Siddiqi⁵, Muhammad Zakaria Yousaf Hassan⁶, Han Zhenguo⁷ and Muhammad Rizwan⁸

¹Sustainable development Policy Institute, G6/3, H.No. 38, Main Embassy Road, Islamabad, Pakistan.

²College of Humanities and Development (COHD), China Agriculture University, Beijing, China.

³University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan.

⁴Institute of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

⁵PMAS Arid Agriculture, University Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

⁶Agricultural Officer, Gujrat, Muzafarghar, Pakistan.

⁷College of Humanities and Development (COHD), China Agriculture University, Beijing-China.

⁸Soneri Bank, Lahore-Pakistan.

Accepted 30 October, 2013

Rural youth in Pakistan play very significant character in the political, economic, rural development and social change. The research work is the socio-psychological effects on rural development in the aspect of unemployment on the personality of jobless youth in Tehsil Jaranwala, District Faisalabad-Pakistan. A multistage sampling technique was applied for data collection. At the 2nd stage, two union councils were randomly selected from selected tehsil and at the 3rd stage; two villages were randomly selected from selected union councils. Total numbers of 120 respondents were interviewed from different villages. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data for drawing conclusion(s). Majority of the respondents agreed that unemployment leads to poor mental health, drug addiction, corruption, rural development, crime, dishonesty, depression and anxiety. A highly significant association was found between family income of the respondents and psychological impact of unemployment.

Key words: Unemployment, rural development, Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

With an estimated population of 180.71 million and annual growth rate of 2.03% during the year 2011 - 2012 while growth rate was 2.05% in 2010 - 2011 urban population has increased to 67.55 million from 65.3 million in 2010 - 2011 while rural population has improved to 113.6 million from 111.82 million in 2010 - 2011 (Government of Pakistan, 2012). The total labour force has increased from 56.33 million in 2009 - 2010 to 57.24 million in 2010 - 2011. The total number of peoples engaged during 2010 - 2011 was 53.84 million, 0.63

million more than the earlier year. The unemployed frequency has greater than before from 5.6% in 2009 - 2010 to 6.0% in 2010 - 2011. In Punjab, jobless people increased from 1.94 million to 2.1 million (Government of Pakistan, 2012).

The development of a country, like Pakistan, depends upon the socio-economic structure of the country. Youth is an important and vital segment of human resources, not only of today but particularly at a stage of rapid modernization and technological innovation. Throughout

the developing world, the greatest challenge facing the country is that of youth unemployment. In the definition of unemployment, the person who is in the state where he does not have any work and he is searching for the work is included in the unemployed persons; such person is available for the job at all times. Unemployment can be described: (a) jobless (b) seeking works (Government of Pakistan, 2006).

Unfortunately for the rural development, the problem of unemployment is more intense in the Asian countries than in the European countries. Pakistan is the 10th largest country in terms of possessing the labor force and according to the latest survey it is estimated to be 53.72 million; a large number of the overall population still finds themselves in the state of unemployment. One of the leading reasons for this huge ratio of unemployment is that the youth does not like the technical/vocational education over here. It is more interested in some general degrees that no doubt add to their qualification but due to their minimum interest in the vocational education, it gets their qualification only and not to their jobs. So lack of skill is the major hindrance for the rural youth in Pakistan. Many rural youth organization for the development are working e.g. Chand Tara, Boy Scout, Girl Guide Movement, Farm Guide Movement and Farm Girl Guide was introduced in Pakistan (Butt et al., 2011).

Presently, political and economic situation in Pakistan stand at the point where policy making for development can be practiced without considering the consequences of unemployment. This is not only a humanitarian question but also a question about which both government and public should be seriously interested. Everyone who is pledged to the welfare of its people must find out some remedies for its problem of jobless youth.

The unemployment besides losing income suffers from boredom, depression, family tension, divorce, violence and tendency towards crime (Survey report of this research). Merely low income of an individual is not among the problems of unemployment in the society but it also is the root of many social and political problems. Social problems which are mainly caused by unemployment or unemployed people are frustration, murder robbery, suicide, kidnapping, female trafficking and many more in which unemployed youths are involved. Due to unemployment, the society becomes victim of so many things like poverty, political instability, crime, psychological depression and earning problems. The physiological needs of a person remained unmet in the presence of economic deprivation in the lives of the people and this shortage or deprivation becomes the source of giving hardships to the people and further add to their miseries.

Among various causes of unemployment, lack of establishment of skill oriented educational institutes is more important for the rural development. The Art schools, colleges and universities are growing rapidly

with no effect on the seeking or getting of jobs. It is because Arts as subject has less applicability than the skill oriented degrees. Thus Art students are largely victims of the jobless condition (Hussain, 2000). The greatest challenge the country is facing today is no doubt that of youth unemployment and the situation has largely engulfed the majority of the developing countries in the world. There is a need to tackle the problem on priority basis as it is now also eroding the structure of social life of the population of the country. The situation is very bleak in this regard because youth in that case are easy prey for criminals, drug dealers and extremists (Moniza, 2008).

METHODOLOGY

This study consists of unemployed youth living in rural areas of the Tehsil Jaranwala District, Faisalabad. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study. At the 1st stage, Tehsil Jaranwala was selected randomly from the total five Tehsils of Faisalabad District. At the 2nd stage, two union councils U.C#34 and U.C#57 were selected from selected Tehsil using simple random sampling technique. At the 3rd stage, two villages Chak No. 240 GB and 229 RB, one each from selected union councils were randomly selected. At the final stage, 120 respondents consisting of 60 from Chak No. 229 RB and 60 from Chak No. 240 GB, were interviewed keeping in view the population of the respective villages. The data were collected through formal interviews of the respondents. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied for data analysis through SPSS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 reflects that 35.0% of the respondent's belonged to age group of 16 to 20 years, while 56.7% of the respondent's belonged to age group of 21 to 25 years and 8.3% of the respondent's belonged to age group of 26 to 30 years. Pratt (1995) found that the unemployed mostly young generation. Vulture (2003) found that the people aged 15 to 19, who have a lower level of education than those aged 20 to 24, are more probable to be jobless than older youth who have studied longer, have more work experience and thus stand a better chance of finding service. Khan (1991) found that age of person makes him mentally mature and able to take rational decisions.

Figure 2 shows that 5.0% respondents were literate, 6.7% respondents were primary and 8.3% respondents were passed middle level education. There were 24.2% having matriculation certificates and 18.3% respondents passed intermediate examinations. About 29.2% respondents were already graduating and 8.3% of respondents has graduated. Lange (1998) argued in his article that although unemployment is a serious problem in Europe, deregulation to labour markets is not a solution. Deregulation can lead to decline in quality and competitiveness. For better solution we have the example of Japan. Interaction of education, training, human resource

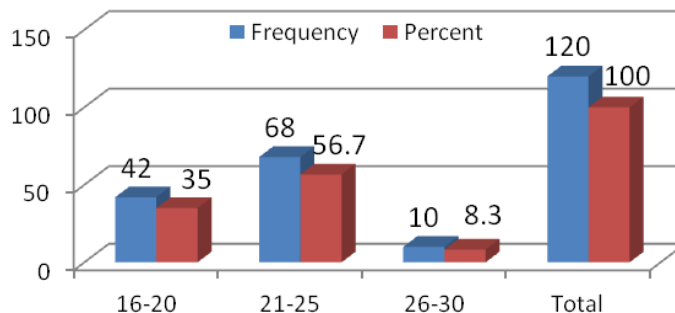


Figure 1. Assessment of the respondents according to age.

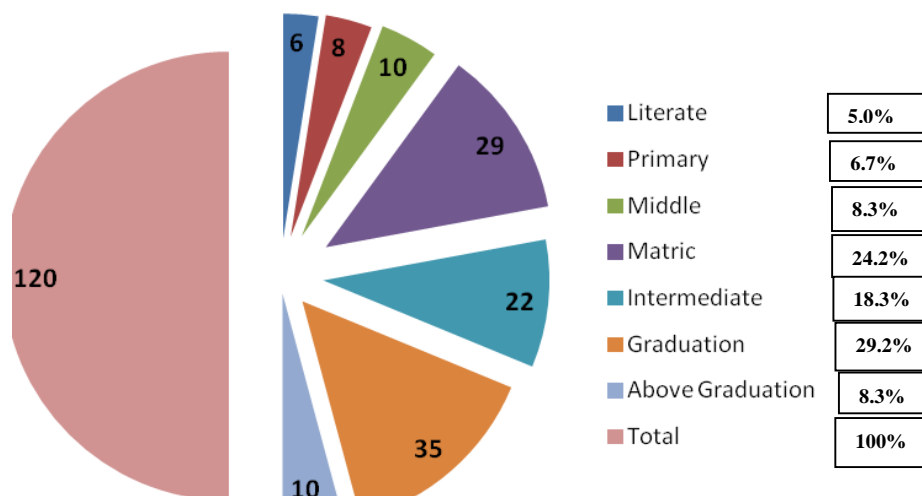


Figure 2. Distribution of the respondents according to education.

management and quality controls is the way that Japan has adopted and is making progress day to day. He further argued that interaction between labour department, educational institutions and industries can help in reducing unemployment rates. After 60 years, we have not provided our people with the required skills and education to compete in the global labor market. Human resource development or organizing of the education system on scientific or contemporary lines has never been the priority of successive governments. Hussain et al. (2003) found that it is envisaged that the more the percentage of educated peoples the more would be the rate of development.

An unemployed person, who is living in joint family system, may have less effect of unemployment on his mental health as compared to an unemployed person who is living in a nuclear family system. This study (Figure 3) shows that majority of the respondents, that is, 55.8% were living in the joint family system and 44.2% were living in the nuclear family system. Noreen (2000) found that unemployment problem also affects upon the living standards of the peoples.

Figure 4 reflects that majority of the respondents

(92.5%) live with the parents, 5.0% of the respondent's live with friends and only 2.5% of the respondent's live alone. The immediate effect of unemployment is reduction in income and falls in the standard of living. Noreen (2000) considered unemployment problems as the serious threat to the economy of Pakistan. In addition, the family relationship building and breakage was also associated factors with it. Merely low income of an individual is not among the problems of unemployment in the society but it also is the root of many social and political problems. Social problems which are mainly caused by unemployment or unemployed people are frustration

Any skill/training can maximize the opportunities to get job for any unemployed person. If a person is illiterate but he has some skill of any type then he may get job on the basis of that specific skill or ability. Figure 5 indicates that 62.5% respondents had skills and 37.5% respondents have no skill.

Marker (2002) also confirmed that if there would be rising unemployment that can raise the wave of unrest and crimes in the society. Vandalism would also be on the rise if the government fails to reduce the impending

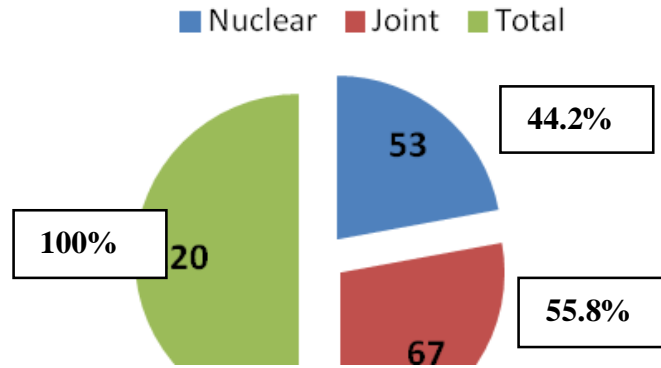


Figure 3. Distribution of the respondents regarding their type of family.

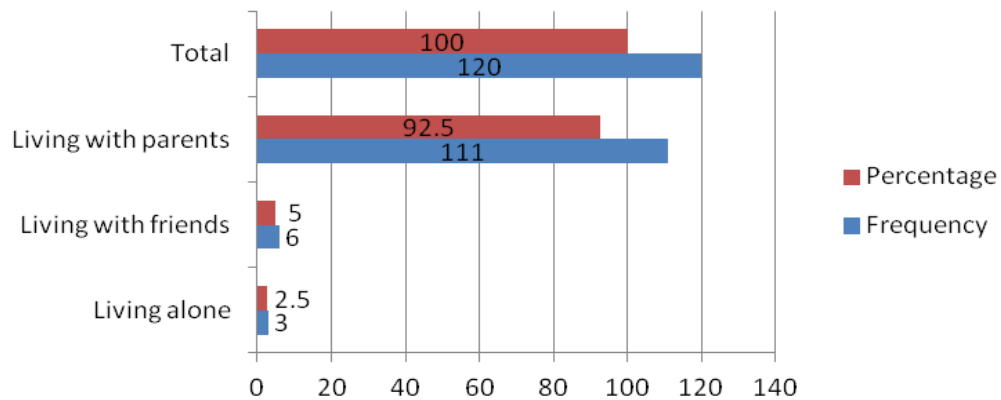


Figure 4. Distribution of the respondents regarding their living arrangements.

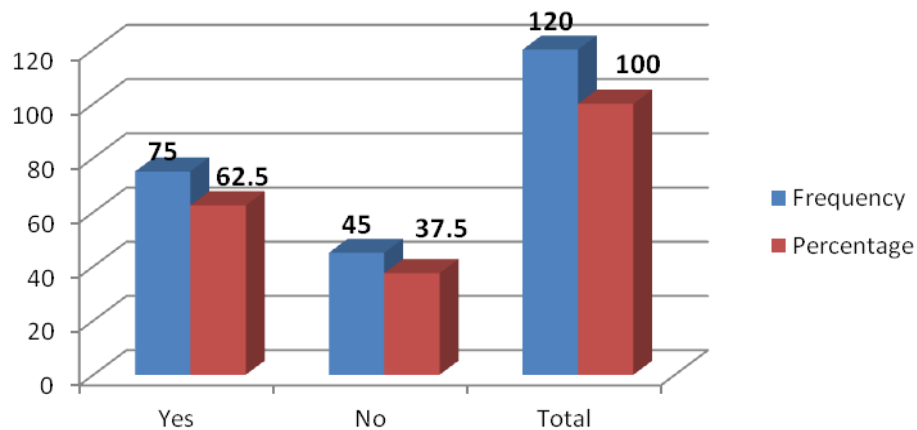


Figure 5. Distribution of the respondents regarding possession of any skill.

situation of uncertainty in the jobs for youths who dropped out of schools to support their families. Shabbeer (2003) found that majority of respondents had no skill for being employed.

Figure 6 indicates that 26.8% respondents had diploma and technical skill, 13.3% respondents were electricians, 10.6% respondents were carpenters, 16% of respondents were motor mechanics, 20% respondents had teaching

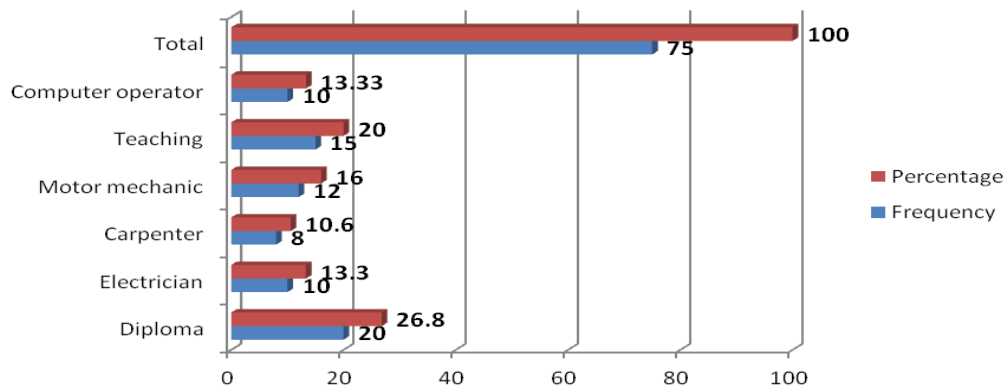


Figure 6. Distribution of the respondents according to their technical skill.

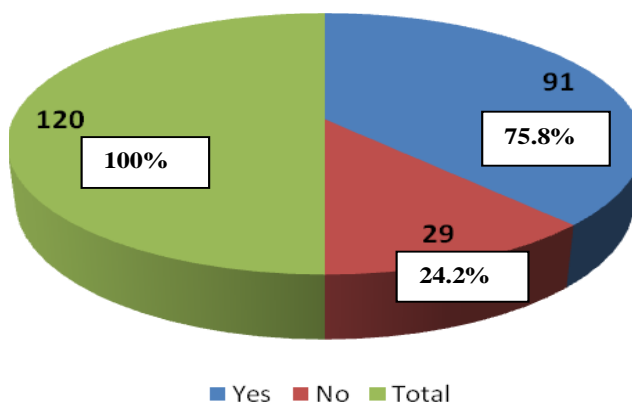


Figure 7. Distribution of the respondents according to their technical skill.

skill and 13.33% of respondents had computer operating skill and experience. Butt et al. (2011) also confirmed that maximum number of respondents would be involved in labour jobs.

Everyone wants to get a job that at least equals the level of their education. If someone cannot get job according to the qualification, it definitely affects his behavior and mental health. Often, it is observed that some people accept the job below their qualification because they think that something is better than nothing, however, some do not. Figure 7 of this study shows that 75.8% respondents answered that they would accept job below their qualification and 24.2% respondents answered that they would not accept job below their qualification.

Figure 8 shows that 89.2% respondents got money for their use from their family members, 5.0% respondents got money for their daily use from their relatives, 0.8% respondents got money for their daily use from their friends and 5.0% got money for daily use from other resources. Shabbeer (2003) studied that unemployed persons had mostly involved in negative activities to get

money for their daily use. Table 1 comprises six propositions, which are stated below.

Youth feels confident if they have some job

Table 1 show that a majority, that is, 50.8% of the respondents strongly agreed while 24.1% agreed, 12.5% disagreed and 8.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed while 4.2% of the respondents were neutral about this statement.

Unemployment badly affects socioeconomic status of the family and rural development

Table 1 indicates that 34.2% of the respondents strongly agreed while 40.8% agreed. Another 20.8% disagreed and 3.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed while 0.8% of the respondents were neutral about this statement. Shams (1993) studied the effects of unemployment on lifestyle. He focused on the impact of

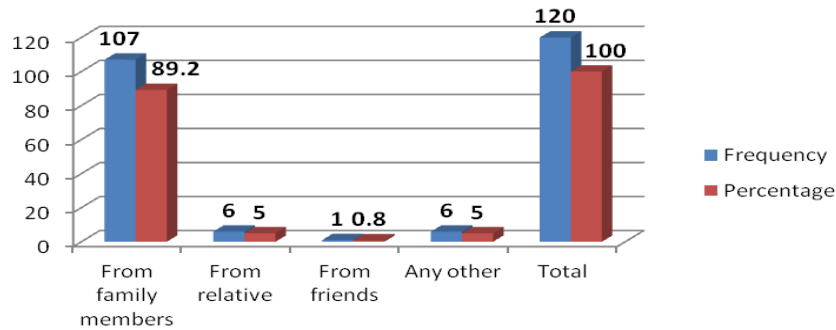


Figure 8. Distribution of the respondents according to their source of money for daily use.

unemployment on family, leisure and lifestyle.

Employed persons have higher status in society than unemployed person

Table 1 indicates that 38.8% of the respondents strongly agreed while 37.5% agreed. Another 25.0% disagreed and 5.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed; only 1.7% of the respondents were neutral about this statement. When the unemployed person compares himself with those who are employed who can fulfill their needs then the feelings of deprivations can develop in his mind.

Effects of rural development in aspect of unemployed youth create social violence

Table 1 indicates that majority (49.2%) of the respondents agreed, 25.8% of the respondents strongly agreed. Meanwhile 20.0% disagreed and only 5.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed about this statement. Unemployed besides losing income suffers from boredom, depression, family tension, divorce, violence and tendency towards crime.

Your friends and relatives avoid meeting you

Table 1 shows that majority (48.3%) of the respondents agreed and 11.7% respondents strongly agreed with this statement. It also shows 28.3% of the respondents disagreed with it and only 5.0% respondents strongly disagreed with this statement that their friends and relatives constantly avoids meeting them due to their unemployed status. In this regard 6.7% were neutral about this statement.

You have lost your social relations

This indicates that majority (51.7%) of the respondents

agreed and only 16.7% respondents strongly agreed with the statement that they have lost their social relations. Table 1 reveals that 16.7% respondents disagreed and only 10.8% respondents strongly disagreed with it. It also shows that 4.2% respondents were neutral about this statement. Unemployed person shows hesitation to introduce him to others. He avoids meeting others as they ask about his job.

Table 2 comprises six questions, as stated below:

Unemployed persons are usually drug users

Table 2 indicates that 20.8% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement “unemployed persons are usually drug users”, while 46.7% agreed. Another 26.7% disagreed and 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed; only 3.3% of the respondents were neutral about this statement. Schaufeli (1997) also identified that for young people, joblessness could lead to the poor mental health. He concluded the result in a longitudinal study in which he took 635 college graduate and 967 school leavers. After that study he asserted that without job, respondents’ health due to various reasons was actually standing at lower level than the others. Damian (1997) found that the people were liable to become embittered and mentally depressed due to unemployment. They lose hope, suffered from lowered morales, and in some cases drinking.

Unemployment leads to corruption

Table 2 indicates that 27.5% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement “unemployment leads to corruption”, while 35.0% agreed. Meanwhile 29.2% disagreed and 7.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed; only 0.8% of the respondents were neutral about this statement. Waheed (2002) concluded that joblessness is a countless socioeconomic problem. It is a great cause of individual poverty. Due to unemployment, corruption and crimes increased.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-economic impact of unemployment.

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Natural	Total
Youth feels confident if they have some job	50.8% (61F)	24.1% (29F)	12.5% (15F)	8.3% (10F)	4.2% (5F)	100.0% (120F*)
Unemployment affects badly socioeconomic status of the family and rural development	34.2% (41F)	40.8% (49F)	20.8% (25F)	3.3% (4F)	0.8% (1F)	100.0% (120F*)
Employed persons have higher status in society than unemployed person	38.8% (37F)	37.5% (45F)	25.0% (30F)	5.0% (6F)	1.7% (3F)	100.0% (120F*)
Effects of rural development in aspect of unemployed youth creates social violence	25.8% (31F)	49.2% (59F)	20.0% (24F)	5.0% (6F)	0% (0F)	100.0% (120F*)
Your friends/relatives avoid meeting you	11.7% (14F)	48.3% (58F)	28.3% (34F)	5.0% (6F)	6.7% (8F)	100.0% (120F*)
You have lost your social relations	16.7% (20F)	51.7% (62F)	16.7% (20F)	10.8% (13F)	4.2% (5F)	100.0% (120F*)

*F means frequency of respondents.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their physiological impact of unemployment.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Natural	Total
Unemployed persons are usually drug users	20.8% (25 F)	46.7% (56 F)	26.7% (32F)	2.5% (3 F)	3.3% (4 F)	100% (120 F*)
Unemployment leads to corruption	27.5% (33 F)	35.0% (42 F)	29.2% (35F)	7.5% (9 F)	0.8% (1 F)	100.0% (120 F*)
Unemployment leads to crime and sins	30.0% (36 F)	43.3% (52 F)	18.3% (22F)	7.5% 9 F)	0.8% (1 F)	100.0% (120 F*)
Unemployment leads to depression and anxiety	50.0% (60 F)	46.7% (56 F)	0.8% (1F)	2.5% (3 F)	0% (0F)	100.0% (120 F*)
Unemployment leads to aggression martial problems	29.2% (35 F)	47.5% (57 F)	16.7% (20 F)	4.2% (5 F)	2.5% (3 F)	100.0% (120 F*)
Unemployment increase suicide rates	21.7% (26 F)	61.7% (74 F)	7.5% (9 F)	3.3% (4 F)	5.8% (7 F)	100.0% (120 F*)

*F means frequency of respondents.

Unemployment leads to crime and sins

Table 2 reveals that 30.0% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement "unemployment leads to crime and sins". While 43.3% agreed, 18.3% disagreed, 7.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed and only 0.8% of the respondents were neutral about this statement. Bruce (1997) examined the national crime rates during 1997 and found much of the

increase in crime during that period of unemployment. Aslam (1999) concluded that there is a link between unemployment and crime.

Unemployment leads to depression and anxiety

Table 2 indicates that majority (50.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 46.7% of the

respondents agreed. However 0.8% disagreed and 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed about this statement. In our society no one gives any importance to the unemployed. Thus the unemployed is more likely to develop feelings of worthlessness. He loses his confidence and it becomes more difficult to interact effectively with others. Joblessness might be predictable to increase anxiety and depression, and further results in low self-esteem.

Table 3. Association between age of the respondents and their socioeconomic and psychological impact.

Age of the respondents (in years)	Socio-economic and psychological impact (No. (%))			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
16-20	14 (33.3%)	10 (23.8%)	18 (42.9%)	42 (100.0%)
21-25	5 (7.4%)	5 (7.4%)	58 (85.3%)	68 (100.0%)
26-30	2 (20.0%)	3 (30.0%)	5 (50.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Total	21 (17.5%)	18 (15.0%)	81 (67.5%)	120 (100.0%)

Chi-square = 23.79; d.f. = 4; Significance = 0.000**; Gamma = 0.450.

Stankunas et al. (2006) showed that sadness is a severe problem in the 'without a job' population. Depression is additionally raised among the long-term unemployed. Sandifer (1985) studied that after unemployment, indications of summarization, depression, and anxiety were meaningfully greater in the jobless than working.

Unemployment leads to aggression and marital problems

Table 2 shows that 29.2% of the respondents strongly agreed and 47.5% agreed. While 16.7% disagreed and 4.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed while only 2.5% of the respondents were neutral on this statement. Pratt (1995) found that constant depression, emotional strains, lack of decision power and mental health problems were the results of unemployment.

Unemployment increases suicide rates

Table 2 indicates that 21.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement "Unemployment increases suicide rates" and majority (61.7%) of the respondents agreed with it. This table also shows that 7.5% respondents disagreed with the above mentioned statement and 3.3% respondents strongly disagreed. Only 5.8% respondents had no opinion about this statement and natural case from any other depression.

Testing of hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Higher the age of the unemployed, higher will be the socio-economic and psychological impact of unemployment

Table 3 chi-square value shows a greatly important association between age of the respondents and socioeconomic and psychological impact of unemployment. The gamma value shows a strong positive association between the variables. It means high age respondents had more impact as compared to low age respondents. So the hypothesis "Higher the age of

the unemployed, higher will be the socio-economic and psychological impact" is accepted.

Hypothesis 2: Higher the education of the unemployed, higher will be the socio-economic and psychological impact of unemployment

Table 4 chi-square value shows a highly significant association between education of the respondents and socioeconomic and psychological impact of unemployment. The gamma value shows a strong positive relationship between the variables. It means highly educated respondents had more impact as compared to low educated respondents. So the hypothesis "Higher the education of the unemployed, higher will be the socio-economic and psychological impact" is accepted.

Hypothesis 3: Higher the income of the respondents' family, lower will be the socio-economic and psychological impact of unemployment

Table 5 chi-square value shows a highly significant association between family income of the respondents and socioeconomic and psychological impact of unemployment. The gamma value shows a strong negative relationship between the variables. It means high income families' respondents had less impact as compared to high income family' respondents. So the hypothesis "Higher the family income of the unemployed, lower will be the socio-economic and psychological impact" is accepted.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It may be concluded that unemployment among youth is an issue of great significance as to its socio-psychological consequences leading to low moral values and enhanced crime rates in the rural societies. However, better economic status of the families (joint family system) is playing a pivotal role in reducing the adverse outcomes of the unemployment among youth. Media

Table 4. Association between education of the respondents and their socioeconomic and psychological impact.

Education of the respondents	Socio-economic and psychological impact {No. (%)}			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Up to Middle	10 (41.7%)	7 (29.2%)	7	24
Matric	3 (10.3%)	3 (10.3%)	23 (79.3%)	29 (100.0%)
Intermediate	3 (13.6%)	2 (9.1%)	17 (77.3%)	22 (100.0%)
Graduation and above	5 (11.1%)	6 (13.3%)	34 (75.6%)	45 (100.0%)
Total	21 (17.5%)	18 (15.0%)	81 (67.5%)	120 (100.0%)

Chi-square = 20.88, d.f. = 6, Significance = 0.002**, Gamma = 0.394.

Table 5. Association between family income of the respondents and their socioeconomic and psychological impact.

Family income (Rs.)	Socio-economic and psychological impact {No. (%)}			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Up to 10000	5 (17.2%)	4 (13.8%)	20 (69.0%)	29 (100.0%)
10001-20000	3 (7.9%)	4 (10.5%)	31 (81.6%)	38 (100.0%)
20001-30000	3 (9.7%)	3 (9.7%)	25 (80.6%)	31 (100.0%)
Above 30000	10 (45.5%)	7 (31.8%)	5 (22.7%)	22 (100.0%)
Total	21 (17.5%)	18 (15.0%)	81 (67.5%)	120 (100.0%)

Chi-square = 26.63, d.f. = 6 Significance = 0.000** Gamma = 0-.349.

must play a role in creating awareness among the masses as to the adverse effects of unemployment to build a pressure on the policy makers to come up with policies aimed at indiscriminate access to the learning and serving opportunities in the society:

- (i) Over population is a major factor increasing unemployment and least upgrade rural development.
- ii) Programs should be started for the awareness about family planning for general public for the up gradation of rural development.
- (iii) Education should be job oriented. Eradication of corruption, favoritism is a must during the process of selection and steps should be taken for the selection on merit.
- (iv) More opportunities should be provided to educate persons for the rural development.
- v) Step should be taken for the development of technical education in especially rural development.
- (vi) Industrial network should spread all over the country.
- vii) New factories should be opened in different areas of the country, foreign investments should be encouraged and steps should be taken for the encouragement of home industries.
- (viii) Impact of rural development in aspect of self-employment schemes should be started.
- ix) There is need to change the behavior of the society, that is, barring the unemployed persons from its social life.
- (x) Healthy activities should be started for the youth that they remain busy in these activities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors would like to express thanks to Prof. Dr. Zia-ur-Rahman Principal/Project Director at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Sub-Campus Toba Tek Singh-Punjab for critical reading of the manuscript.

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