

15. High Unemployment Rates in Delhi and India

Q: Recently, there have been wide protests due to high unemployment rates. What is the situation in Delhi?

A: The unemployment rate in National Capital has been increasing especially since last few months. The impact of the corona was very high on livelihood opportunities. Delhi reported an unemployment rate of around 16%, which is alarmingly high. In addition, the female labour force participation rate has also reduced in the past few years.

Q: What do you think are the possible reasons behind these high unemployment numbers?

A: The biggest reason, for now, is of course the pandemic and lockdowns. However, some long-term issues such as GST, demonetization have also affected jobs. Also, growth in the secondary i.e. manufacturing sector has been stagnant almost.

Q: How is the Delhi government tackling the issue?

A: A most important step taken by the Government was the launch of the **Rozgaar bazaar** Portal that brings the job providers and seekers to one platform. The portal was aimed at helping the businesses to start again and people to find new jobs according to their expertise and preferred areas. The government is also working to ease the conditions for local street vendors by providing them with a legal identity to save them from harassment that they face because of authorities.

World class skill center

- The Government of Delhi decided to address the shortage of skilled manpower through an ambitious green field project - "World Class Skill Centre (WCSC)" in Delhi with Technical Assistance from Govt. of Singapore.
- The approach of these prestigious national assets is of **"institution creation"** rather than **"infrastructure creation"**.
- The reason is to provide world-class skills to youth of India by imparting world class training, training technologies and world class physical environment.
- The setting of this institute will demonstrate that skilled people are valued assets to the country

Q: Students have been protesting regarding the unemployment scenario. What according to you are the possible solutions?

A: Currently, the overall process of government jobs is too lengthy and time-consuming. There is a wide time gap between the conduct of exams and results and actual joining. This inefficiency should be reduced gradually. The government sector will not be able to employ everyone so there is a need to focus to attract more investments in the private sector. Also, skilling and teaching new technologies to youth such as marketing strategies, entrepreneurship, graphic designing etc. will not only make them perfect for modern jobs but also help them to start their businesses where they will be employing people ultimately. Talking in basic terms, unless there is a recovery in consumption, recovery in job growth will be difficult. Thus, the government should focus on providing more money supply at the bottom of the pyramid.