

Chapter-4

Inoccupation

Occupation is such an activity through which a person acquires resource for livelihood viz resource might be in the form of cash or kind and this acquired resource is called his **income**. The person who is unable to do such activities is called **unoccupied or unemployed**.

Generally, inoccupation and unemployment go together because the person who is incapable of earning livelihood is definitely poor.

When persons despite eagerness to work do not get a job of their choice undergo the plight of poverty. Sometimes having job against choice reveals inoccupation. In India and in Bihar, there are many dimensions of inoccupation that the chapter will discuss later.

To eradicate the problem of inoccupation, various centre sponsored programmes through government of India are being carried out in the state that will also be discussed in this chapter.

Objectives:

Unemployment is a great problem in India so it is necessary to know its various forms and nature. Measures for its eradication can be suggested only by having knowledge and information regarding inoccupation. The inoccupation found in developed and underdeveloped countries are of various types; therefore, the means and measures for its removal will also be different in both types of countries.

The study on this subject is of immense value particularly for a developing country like India and poor state like Bihar. It is utterly essential to know the main reasons of various types of inoccupation prevalent here so that appropriate measure for its eradication should be adopted.

Definition of Inoccupation:

Inoccupation is an economic problem that is closely related to poverty. In the economic system, a situation of inoccupation arises when persons desirous to work on **prevailing wages** do not get work. In other words, if the persons despite availability of work and their wish and ability to work on prevailing wages are deprived of it, it is a situation of inoccupation. Therefore, there are two main points in the concept of inoccupation. The two main points are-

1. Lack of work
2. To be available for work

Perceive it through an example

Sita Devi, mother of Akash, helped her husband Kishan, in his household work, childcare and in the farming activities. Akash's brother Jitu and sister Situ spent their time in playing and wandering. Can you call Sita Devi, Jitu and Situ unemployed? If yes, why?

Inoccupation is a situation when a person does not get job despite his wish to work on prevailing wages. Sita Devi is not interested in working outside. Jitu and Situ are very young and they cannot be counted among the population of labour force and neither Jitu, Situ and Sita Devi can be called unemployed because only the persons of 15-59 age groups are included in the labour force. Akash's sister, Jitu and Situ, are not in this age group so they cannot be called unemployed. Akash's mother, Sita Devi, too cannot be called unemployed because she is not eager to earn money (remuneration) by doing work outside.

Though Akash's grand-father and grand-mother, not mentioned in the story, cannot be called unemployed because they have become old and do not come in the age group of labour force (15-59).

The percentage of labour force presently in India and Bihar are illustrated in table no.1.

Table – 1
Labour force in India and Bihar
1999-2000

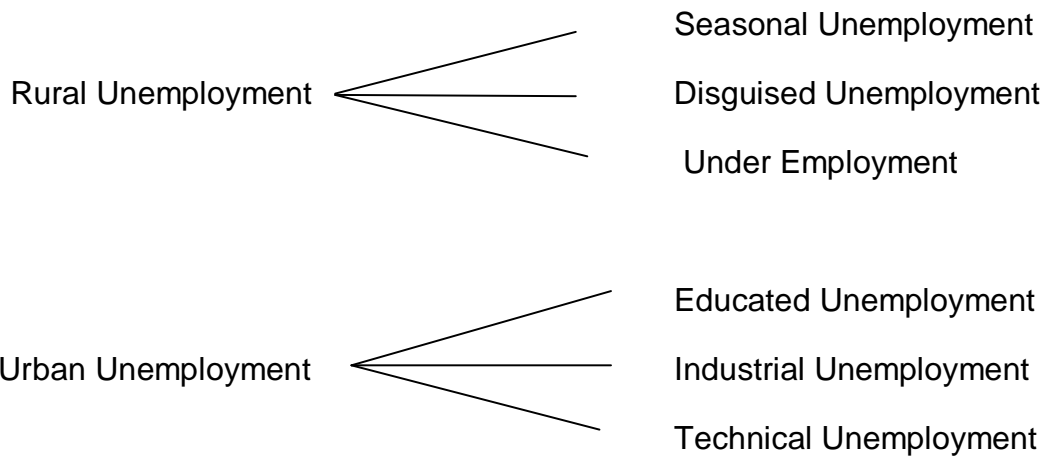
Country/State	Rural	Urban
India		
Male	85.4	78.6
Female	45.6	20.9
Total	66.2	51.1
Bihar		
Male	86.9	75.7
Female	28.9	12.5
Total	59.2	48.4

National Human Rights Commission Report, 2001

Types of Unemployment:

Unemployment is a major problem for any country; consequently, the labour force is not properly utilized. In context of India and Bihar, unemployment is prevalent in rural as well as urban regions. There is a great difference between the nature of rural and urban unemployment that can be viewed like this-

The percentage of unemployed labour force (rural and urban) on the level of India and Bihar is shown in table no.2.



Country/State	Rural	Urban
India		
Male	7.20	7.30
Female	7.00	9.40
Total	7.20	7.70
Bihar		
Male	7.20	8.70
Female	6.20	13.50
Total	7.00	9.30

Source- Planning Commission, the Tenth Five Year Plan Vol-I, page 165

We shall the above unemployment like this-

Rural Unemployment

Seasonal Unemployment:

The unemployment caused by change in season is called seasonal unemployment. Seasonal unemployment occurs in a situation when a person gets a job during farming season and becomes workless in non-farming season. This type of unemployment mainly occurs in rural agricultural sector. Indian agriculture is solely dependent on **monsoon** that is totally variable and we see it in different forms like flood and draught.

Picture 4.1.



People engage in other work in the hope of employment

Indian agriculture is a seasonal occupation. As farming activities are divided into different phase like **planting, irrigating, weeding, harvesting**, etc. and after each phase the labourers become jobless, because the farmers have no alternative work in this period and this is situation that creates seasonal unemployment.

Disguised Unemployment:

Disguised unemployment is called Under Employment too. People look employed under disguised unemployment. They have plots of land where they get work; this is particularly in the families engaged in agricultural activities. When in a particular agricultural activity eight persons become engaged where only five persons are required, in such a situation three persons are surplus

worker because they are toiling on the same plot of land where already five persons are working. The work done by these three workers does not augment the contribution of the five workers; therefore, there is no increase in total production. There will be no decrease in productivity if the three extra workers are taken away because only five persons are needed there and three persons are employed in disguised manner. Marginal product of disguised unemployment remains zero.

Urban Unemployment

Educational Unemployment:

The situation of educational unemployment has emerged due to extension of educational facilities and erratic educating system. When the educated persons do not get employment, they are called educational unemployed. Today there are so many boys and girls with matric, graduate and post graduate degrees incapable of getting jobs. They are in the category of educated unemployed. In Bihar, the number of educated unemployed is very large.

Industrial unemployment:

Present age is the age of industrial development. As the structure of industrial extent is based on modern techniques, the human labour force is less required; consequently, it gives birth to industrial unemployment. Usually, the labour force from rural areas move towards urban areas in search of employment but they do not get it there. At the same time, in mechanised system cutting down the number of employees in industries is going on rapidly and causing industrial unemployment in urban areas.

Technical unemployment:

Nowadays this type of unemployment is found in the urban areas as a consequence of technical change. In modern age due to innovative techniques already working employees are retrenched, e.g., cloth mills have made many hand loom weavers unemployed. In Bihar, in districts of Bhagalpur, Gaya and so on technical unemployment has spread among the urban workers engaged in traditional hand loom.

In the technical unemployment it is found that on one side there is unemployment among technically skilled persons and on the other side there is lack of necessary technical skills for economic development.

Story

Come on children; let's understand the above types of unemployment through a story

Come on children; the different forms of unemployment are narrated through a story. Gobindpur is a village in Bihar. It is a block under Nawada district. Its border touches Jharkhand state. The speciality of this village is that there is a seasonal river here called 'Sakri'. There is no source of irrigation for agricultural land. The village does not have any canal, pond, *pain*, stream, dam, etc. either. There is not any full-fledged arrangement of irrigation. Only a limited area of the village has electric connection with erratic power supply ranging from one to one and a half hour. In such a situation the whole agricultural activities are solely dependent on monsoon.

Population of the village is around eight thousand comprising a mixture of all castes. The villagers are mainly agricultural labourer and small traders. **Ramdhani** is head of a family residing in the village. He has three sons and two daughters. Two of his sons help him in his work. The main occupation of Ramdhani is to toil on his field and work on other's land as a labourer. He cultivates only seven *katthas* of his own land and grows only paddy and wheat as main crops. Sometimes his wife **Malti Devi** and two sons **Vijay** and **Ajay** work with him. During crop season they work for two months and thereafter become workless because during rainy season they do not have any work. Their work is needed at the time of harvesting. Therefore, the family faces the disguised unemployment in agriculture because even without the support of two sons the family produced the same quantity of grain. Actually, Vijay and Ajay help their family in absence of work. Both are educated youths. Once both of them went to Kolkata in search of job and started working in a leather industry.

They were working there as a labourer but due to industrialisation, machines of new techniques were installed there and they were retrenched as they did not know how to operate machines. Consequently, once again they became unemployed. Here, both the brothers became jobless due to lack of technical education. If they were trained, perhaps it would not have happened. In this situation both the brothers were affected by **technical unemployment**.

Both came back to his village. Naturally, the burden of the family was increasing day by day. Then both the brothers decided to participate in the training programmes run by government and so they accessed to block office to know about it. Both of them took training in bicycle repairing. After training, they took a loan of Rs. 10,000/- from a Bank and started a small shop of bicycle repairing. There was not any bicycle repairing shop in the village so their labour elicited good results. They paid bank loan gradually. Thus they increased their income through **self-employment**, took themselves out of the vortex of poverty and established themselves as successful employed youth. Now the name of Ajay and Vijay shop is on every lip.

You saw through this story that how two unemployed youths suffered various types of unemployment but finally they became benefitted through the government scheme.

Birth of unemployment:

So far you have come to know about employment and its various types. Now we shall try to know the reasons responsible for the birth of unemployment.

India is an agriculture bases country and about 68% of the total population of the country reside in rural areas. The main source of their subsistence is agriculture and agriculture related activities depending on monsoon. Some sorts of unemployment are visible but there are some other reasons that give birth to unemployment.

1. Over population:

The population of India by growing rapidly has crossed the figure of 102 crores according to 2001 census. Due to increasing population various types of unemployment have been emerging and they are responsible for unemployment in villages and towns which in common parlance are called 'rural unemployment and urban unemployment'. The various types of unemployment are expressed in the following terminologies- seasonal unemployment, disguised unemployment, educated unemployment, industrial unemployment, technical unemployment, etc.

2. Illiteracy:

According to census 2001, 34.62 percent of total population of India is illiterate. Bihar is on the last rank with 53.0 percent illiterates.

Picture 4.2



Unskilled and illiterate women pursuing education

Due to illiteracy there is increase in the rate of unemployment, particularly among women. Due to lack of literacy the number of unemployed women is very large. The labour forces of rural women do not get employment on regular basis and they are compelled to work on irregular basis. Due to uncertainty in regular job they can be terminated any time.

1. **Backwardness in agriculture:**

In spite of being an agricultural based country, India's agricultural sector is suffering from backwardness and main reason of that is its total dependency on monsoon which throughout the year remains fully variable and uncertain. The fury of flood and draught is always there. Bihar is a significant victim of the fury both of flood and draught. Usually north Bihar faces the fury of flood and south Bihar that of draught. The disaster of the Kosi river is a befitting example of the fury of flood. In north Bihar, the Bagmati and the Adhwarah Samooh rivers with thier furious flood have been affecting agriculture adversely. Through these reasons the agriculture sector of Bihar has to suffer a great loss.



The traditional way of farming is still in use

In addition to this the unnatural resources of irrigating fields such as canals, tube wells, wells, ponds, etc. are still available in traditional way that subdue the pace of agricultural development. Development and use of modern techniques of irrigation has not yet flourished.

The old machines and tools are still used in agricultural activities that also lead to unemployment in Indian agricultural sector on a large scale.

2. Maximum burden of population on agriculture:

More than half of the population of India depends on agriculture due to which the occupation for livelihood of Indian population is farming. In the other sectors like- industry, trade and services the pressure of population less due to heavy load on agriculture. Disguised unemployment is visible in agricultural sector which is responsible for rural unemployment.

Picture- 4.4



Women working in field in large number, showing disguised unemployment

3. Lack of Industrialization:

As India is an agriculture based country, so here the development of industries are far less than that in the developed countries. Consequently, wide spread development of industries could not be possible. The shortage of power and resources has also lessened the pace of its development. Educated and trained people want employment in industrial sector where there is absence of employment. Besides in the mechanised industries retrenchment gives rise to unemployment in the industrial sector.

4. Absence of Capital:

Due to lower per capita income in India the '**rate of capital creation**' is also very low and due to this fact the desired capital is not being invested in agriculture and other industries leading unemployment at all levels in the country and the states.

5. Shortage of trained labour force:

In the absence of education and training, Indian labourers are not able to handle machines as a result of which they cannot contribute in the technique based employments such as computer work, management and in heavy machines based work that gives birth to unemployment.

Picture- 4.5.



Lack of this type of trained labour force

Measures to remove unemployment and increase employment

Children! Before this you knew the reasons giving birth to unemployment. Now we shall discuss the measures for its eradication and augmentation of employment.

The problem of unemployment in India is still very grave for which there is an urgent need to get rid of it through governmental and non-governmental efforts on national and state levels. The following efforts can be done to tackle the problem of unemployment-

- I. Government efforts
- II. Non government efforts

I. Government measures:

From very beginning the government has been very active towards the problem of unemployment. In the fourth five year plan some important programmes like, Minimum Needs Programme, Area Development Programme, Food for Work Programme and Employment Guarantee Programme, etc. were carried out. Again, during the sixth five year plan various programmes related to poverty and unemployment like- Integrated Rural Development Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna were carried out that put a direct impact on reducing unemployment and providing fresh opportunities for employment.

Now we shall discuss the following programmes being carried out by government of India for eradication of unemployment in different states-

- **TRYSEM** – Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment
- **DWACRA** – 1982. Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas
- **JGSY** – 1989. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana

The above all three programmes are clubbed into one as (NREGA) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2006 and are in effect from 2006. The number of unemployed persons has reduced after its implementation.

IRDP	-	Integrated Rural Development Programme
NREP	-	National Rural Employment Programme
RLEGP	-	Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme
JRY	-	Jawahar Rozgar Yojna
TRYSEM	-	Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment Programme
DWACRA	-	Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas

Government Programme for Employment

NREGA - National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

NREGA - National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme was launched on February, 2, 2006, by the Prime Minister of India, in 2000 districts of 27 states covering 80,000 Gram Panchayats. Among 38 districts, the programme was implemented in 23 districts of Bihar. Presently it is renamed as 'Prime Minister Rural Employment Programme' and implemented across the country since 15th of August, 2006.

Some important points of the programme are as follows-

1. Every family is guaranteed 100 days work in a financial year.
2. The minimum wages is not less than Rs. 60/-.
3. If employment is not provided within 15 days, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
4. At least one-third beneficiaries should be women.
5. In case of accidental death during work, Rs. 25,000/- will be paid as ex gratia amount.

Picture: 4.6



People working under NREGA

II. Non Government measures:

In view of the nature and reasons of unemployment in India its redress is not possible only through government efforts; in fact, there is a need of creating opportunities of self employment by forming non-governmental organisation and Self Help Group.

Presently, for the removal of unemployment on rural level there are many simple means that can be adopted under non-governmental measures.

a. Expansion of cottage Industries:

Cottage industries are home based industry using family tools and run by family members with very little capital. If a person working in agricultural sector becomes victim of disguised unemployment, the unnecessary burden on agriculture can be minimised by transferring the burden on cottage industries. Inoccupation of family members can be decreased by providing job to all family members.

Picture: 4.7

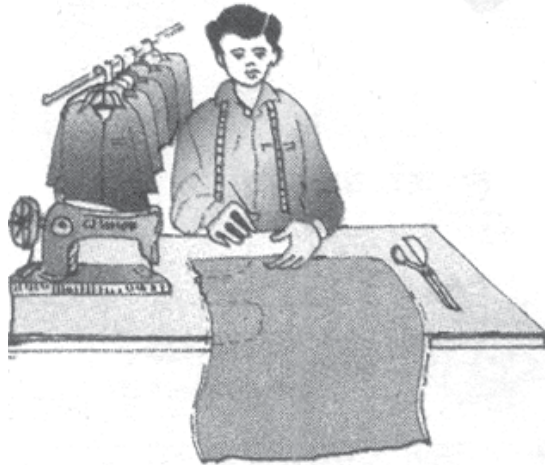


After disposing house hold work, a woman engaged in spinning yarn

b. Self Employment:

Picture: 4.8

To eradicate the widespread unemployment in India the most effective way is the creation of self employment. In self employment a person manages resources to create employment; simultaneously there is arrangement by government through various programmes to provide capital and training. Through this, urban and rural unemployment can be cut down sharply. Self employment is a very effective measure specially in curtailing the number of educated employment.



Creation of self employment by trained person

Impact of inoccupation

Various social and economic evils are spread in the society due to unemployment.

Social Impact

Inoccupation directly affects the social and economic standard of a person that is illustrated here-

- **Wastage of labour force resource**

Labour force is misused because of unemployment as in agriculture sector four persons remain engaged in an agricultural activity and the other family members, when they become able to work, join the same activity but the produce does not increase

Social Impact of Unemployment

- Wastage of labour force resource
- Rise of inferiority complex
- Escalation in social evils
- Beginning of migration tendency

and it seems that all persons of the family are engaged in the same work. It shows wastage of labour force.

■ **Rise of inferiority complex**

The unemployed person develops an inferiority complex in comparison to the employed persons. Consequently, his psychological level goes on falling continuously and they start looking up on themselves as a burden on society. The other unemployed persons are also affected by such type of feelings.

■ **Escalation in social evils**

The practices of theft, robbery, snatching, *thuggee*, dowry, etc. emerge among the unemployed youths and affect the society.

■ **Beginning of migration tendency**

In search of employment, the unemployed persons migrate from their homeland and detach from home, family, society and culture and sometimes situations compel them to work on unreasonable wages. This situation is widely present in Bihar. Therefore, migration does not guarantee permanent employment.

Economic Impact

• **Decrease in Per Capita Income**

The per capita income becomes lower during the period of inoccupation that shows the economic condition of the person.

• **Lower standard of living**

Due to lower per capita income, the standard of life style, diet habit and dress also become of lower standard.

Economic Impact of Unemployment

- Decrease in per capita income
- Lower Life standard
- Apprehension of economic depression
- Increase in loan burden
- Improper use of resources

- **Apprehension of economic depression**

The harmful impact of inoccupation affects the complete development of any economic system. An increase in unemployment is indicator of depressed economic system. This is responsible for the wastage of resources that can be suitably employed in other situations. If people are not used as resources they will become burden on the economy. It is the responsibility of the economic policy of country to lessen the burden of unemployment so that economic system could be health and strong.

- **Improper use of resources**

Due to insufficient capital the use of natural resources is not properly done in the economic system that is a basic reason of unemployment.

Summary

Inoccupation is a serious problem in the country. No any area or community of country is unaffected by it. It is structural in nature. It is linked with inadequate production-capacity of economic system and the slow growth in stock capital. This is not an imaginary problem that will solve automatically with time.

There are various forms and aspects of the problem. Rural unemployment and urban unemployment are its main constituents. Seasonal unemployment, disguised unemployment, educated unemployment, industrial unemployment, technical unemployment, etc come under the constituents. This type of inoccupation is rampant in rural areas.

Lack of development of basic infrastructures and non-use of resources on large scale due to increasing population give birth to various dimensions of inoccupation. For its repudiation, at all costs, the quality of investment can be enhanced by an increase in the rate of capital formation that is tangible form of removal of inoccupation. After attaining independence, continuous efforts are being made at centre and state levels for removal of poverty. The efforts have begun to take positive shape and gradually the problem of unemployment is being solved.

Exercise

I. Objective questions:

Write only a, b, c, or d for correct answer

1. What is the main economic problem of country?
 - (a) Illiteracy
 - (b) abundance of grain
 - (c) required equality
 - (d) poverty and inoccupation

2. Found in the rural area of country?
 - (a) Educational unemployment
 - (b) Industrial unemployment
 - (c) disguised unemployment
 - (d) Cyclic unemployment

3. Inoccupation is a situation when?
 - (a) Do not work with whole heartedly
 - (b) Work with laziness
 - (c) Do not get work despite wish and qualification
 - (d) We are illiterate and handicapped

4. The unemployment found in Bihar is?
 - (a) Frictional
 - (b) Cyclical
 - (c) Disguised
 - (d) None of these

5. Found in the rural areas of Bihar?
 - (a) Industrial unemployment
 - (b) Cyclical unemployment
 - (c) Disguised and monsoon unemployment
 - (d) None of these

6. What is the percentage of illiterates in Bihar?
- (a) 53 percent
 - (b) 40 percent
 - (c) 65 percent
 - (d) 47 percent

II. **Fill in the blanks**

1. Inoccupation is the condition when employment is not.....to a desirous and capable person.
2. Poverty andare main problems in India.
3. Voluntary unemployment is that condition when a person.....wants to work on prevailing wages.
4. Marginal production of labourer becomes negligible or.....in the condition of disguised unemployment.
5. Erratic.....is a main cause of educated unemployment.
6. Disguised andunemployment is found in Bihar.
7. One of the reasons of unemployment in Bihar is lack of.....education.

III. **Put tick (tick) mark against correct statements and crossed (X) mark against wrong statements.**

1. Inoccupation is taking a serious form in India.
2. Inoccupation is that condition when a person does not get employment in spite of having capability and wish to work.
3. There is unemployment among educated in India.
4. The people even engaged in work in India are victims of under employment.
5. There has been instability of employment in India in previous years.
6. Disguised employment is widely prevalent in rural areas of India.
7. The increasing unemployment among the educated youth of India is a matter of concern.
8. In terms of unemployment eradication of the five year plans have partially succeeded.

9. The people of Bihar are victims of disguised and under employments.
10. In the rural areas of Bihar disguised unemployment is present in a very large scale.
11. In Bihar, the problem of inoccupation is continuously decreasing.
12. Development of professional education, self employment and agriculture based industries will be helpful in eradication of unemployment.

IV. Short answer question.

(In not more than 20 words)

1. What do you mean by unemployment?
2. What is your view about disguised unemployment?
3. Narrate underemployment.
4. Narrate the problem of getting a job in India.
5. What are the main causes of increasing inoccupation among educated persons?
6. What do you mean by making education professional?
7. Mention four reasons of unemployment.
8. State some measures as solution to rural inoccupation.

V. Long answer question

(Answer in 100 words)

1. Define occupation? What are the causes of inoccupation in India? State some suggestion for its removal.
2. Write an essay on the problem of inoccupation in India. How can inoccupation be removed?
3. Give an account of various forms of inoccupation found in India. What are your suggestions to solve it?
4. Examine some job creation programmes with special reference to 'Integrated Rural Development Programme'. State measures of reforms for its implementation.
5. Explain the reasons of educational unemployment in India. How can these problems be sort out?

6. What is your understanding about rural unemployment in Bihar? How will you eradicate it?
7. What is the main reason of rural unemployment in Bihar? How will you tackle it?

Answer

I. Objective

(1) d (2) c (3) c (4) c (5) c (6) a

II. Fill in the blanks

(1) available (2) inoccupation (3) no (4) zero (5) education system
(6) seasonal (7) professional

III. Correct-Incorrect

(1) correct (2) correct (3) incorrect (4) correct (5) correct (6) correct
(7) incorrect (8)correct (9)correct (10) correct (11) incorrect (12) correct

IV. Project Work

1. What type of inoccupation is found in your area? Prepare a project stating its reasons.
2. Write an essay on inoccupation found in a family around you.
3. Present a critical description of all types of inoccupation and write an essay on the measures of its removal.
4. Prepare a statement of the government programmes going on in your area for self employment of women and prepare a statement of interview of a woman related to self employment programme.

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