

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

**A Sociological Study of Educated Unemployed Youth of Imphal East and
Imphal West Districts of Manipur**

**Thesis Submitted to the North Eastern Hill University for the Award of the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology**

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I, M. Amarjeet Singh hereby submit the revised version of the thesis in response to the letter No.F. Ex/Ph.D/ER/697, dated October 13, 2003 as required for the purpose of evaluation.

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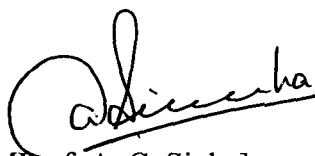
I, **M. Amarjeet Singh**, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis of award of any previous degree to me or to the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any degree in any other university/ Institute.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION, UNEMPLOYMENT: ITS NATURE AND DIMENSIONS,
REVIEW OF LITERATURE, AIMS OF STUDY & METHODOLOGY

Part One

Introduction, Unemployment in India and Manipur

The youth at the threshold of life, enter the active real harsh world of reality soon after the childhood. Till then, their elders had nourished their dreams, provided for their expenses, got them educated and prepared them an adult role. This also marks the end of the blissful days of childhood and thus, the expectations from the young people are immense in every society. The elders had cared for the young children in every possible ways and naturally expect them to chart their independent ways once they have grown up. As society has already socialized and educated for self-dependant, it is expected of them to get settled in life and earn their living. In olden days, vocation and training were not separable. However, modern education split the instruction from the employment. And thus one is expected to look for a job and earn a living after formal education is over. Unfortunately, education and the jobs are not related to each other. The fast growing menace of unemployment in general and educated unemployment in particular may be due to the faulty development strategy adopted by the country. The present education couldn't produce the manpower as required for the changing economy. Further, due to the laissez-faire quantitative expansion of education, the education-manpower mismatch has worsened.

1.1 Defining Youth

The youth constitute a major and enlightened chunk of population in every country including India. The pace of economic development, political stability as well the peace and the prosperity of a nation heavily depend on the active participation and involvement of its youth population. Youth are the vanguard of progress as well social change. The period of youth stands for growth, development, action and leadership. They mature fast in an atmosphere where there is freedom, activity, recognition and opportunity.

We may briefly look at three approaches to define 'youth'. Firstly, from the psychological point of view, youth is not a particular 'age group' but a particular 'state of mind'. Secondly, from the biological viewpoint, youth is the period from 'onset of puberty to the full biological maturity'. The third approach is to take the period of our life during which an individual is preparing himself/ herself to adjust and settle in life. This period is marked by the time one starts thinking about his/her training, education, vocation, marriage etc.

In terms of age, generally youth starts from 12th years of age and up to age of 30 and even little more also. There is no universal definition of youth, as it is difficult to define youth in clear terms, as there are difficulties to accurately assign lower and upper age limits for youth as it varies from time to time, and from society to society. Youth, indeed is a stage of life, and is a transient population in demographic term, sandwiched between childhood on the one hand and adulthood on the other. Eisenstadt puts it thus:

“Age and age differences are among the basic aspects of life and the determinants of human destiny. Every human passes through various ages, and each one he attains and uses different biological and intellectual capacities. At each stage he performs different tasks and roles in relation to the other members of his society; from a child, he becomes a father; from a pupil a teacher; from a vigorous youth a mature adult, and then an aging and ‘old’ man”¹.

While Friedman writes that: *“Youth traditionally, has been defined as the group of human beings who have reached the end of puberty but have not yet acquired the full rights and duties of adult life”²*. Foremost among these rights and duties according to Friedman, *‘marriage and earning a livelihood both for oneself and for one’s family’*. Although the basic biological process of maturation is probably more or less similar in all human societies, their cultural definitions vary from society to society³. He further writes *“It is clear that the time interval occupied by ‘youth’ depends on the type of culture and society in which an individual lives as well as on the social standing he enjoys. In the so-called primitive societies the interval is close to zero; at the end of puberty, the young man or woman is accepted as an adult into the community. The traditional rites of passage mark the importance of this event. Also in societies in which child labour or the pre-arranged marriage of children is a rule, ‘youth’ is limited to members of the classes whose sons and daughters are exempted from such labour and consequently enjoy a certain degree of leisure”⁴*. Again according to the Hindu tradition, man passes through certain stages of life, called *“Ashramas”*, such as *Bramacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha* and *Sanyasa*. Of all these, *Brahmacharya*, corresponds roughly to the youth of the

Hindus. However, Brahmacharya ended rather at an early age due to the prevalence of child marriage. Nevertheless, it is quite distinct and easier to identify youth, in industrialised and urbanised societies.

Hollingshead makes an attempt to define youth by saying that: *“Sociologically, youth is the life of a person when the society in which he functions, ceases to regard him (male or female) as a child and does not accord to him full adult status, role and functions”*⁵. It is pertinent to note that the United Nations recognizes the age between 15-24 as “youth” which have been adopted in many Western countries. The International Labour Organisation defined youth in the age group of 15-24 years⁶. Again, in India, the official definition of the youth as laid down in the National Youth Policy is the age group of 15-35 years. On the other hand, different statistical agencies recognize the age group of 15-34 as youth. Generally, in India, the age between 15-34 is recognised as youth (Saraswathi)⁷. Further, all India Youth League considers persons of 14 to 21 years as youth. Moreover, the maximum age limit for membership of Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) is 35 years.

Interestingly, youth is defined differently in different countries. In terms of age group, youth is defined to be in between 15-35 in India, 15-30 years in Bangladesh, 15-29 years in Sri Lanka, 16-40 years in Nepal and 14-25 years in China (Thamarajaskshi)⁸. Whatever may be the age range, the best operational definition of youth seems to be period when an individual is passing from childhood to adulthood and is struggling to settle his/ her life.as per his aims and aspirations.

The youth, in all ages has been taking active part for progress and social change. The Independence of India, for an instance, from the British colonial rule to a great extent, can be attributed to the active involvement and participation of the youth population in the Freedom Movement led by Gandhiji. Youth elsewhere, no doubt are more concerned as compared to other sections of the population towards the welfare and well being. They constitute a vital and vibrant human resource. They have a right as well as an obligation to participate actively in national development and in shaping the destiny of their respective nations.

. Problems associated with youth are part of the problems that the society as a whole faces. Generally, youth is also seen as vulnerable group. In addition, young people have suffered from the envious criticism from their elders. They are always seen as militant, rebellions, irrational and undisciplined. It is true that youth are vulnerable to outside influence and imitate others. They are always viewed as problem in the society. However, it will not be fair to say that they believe in violence activities only. The youth, however can be easily influenced by our power hungry politicians, leaders and other wrong channels. It is appropriate here to mention what Ram Ahuja wrote: *"The youth tend to become angry when they notice the widening chasm between what the leaders preach and what they practice; when the leaders call for sacrifice but they themselves loll in luxury; when the leaders talk of morality but they themselves maintain liaison with smugglers, criminals and anti-social elements; when they appeal for peace and harmony but they themselves revel in factional squabbles; when they shed crocodile tears for poor but they always live with and support the rich. Disappointed and disillusioned by this, the frustrated*

youth start some agitation to lodge a social protest. Some politicians start taking an interest in these agitation's and in some cases, they use the help of antisocial elements to keep these agitation's alive. When these antisocial elements indulge in loot and arson, it is youth who come to be blamed for these destructive activities, The frustrated youth, thus, become more frustrated and unrest among them further increases"⁹.

If youth power or energy is channelised constructively, it yields to delightful future, not only for them, but also for the society as a whole. They, therefore need to be properly guided, not pushed, need to be gently led, not prodded. In 1985, the International Year of the Youth, the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, initiated a proposal to formulate National Youth Policy. The National Youth Policy was tabled in both houses of Parliament in 1988. It has recognised that "the most important component of the youth programme" has to be the "*removdl of unemployment, both rural and urban, educated and uneducated*". And since the beginning of Planning in India, the youth have been recognised as "the most vital section of the community"¹⁰.

The youth in the age category 15-34 constituted 33.6 percent of the India's total population in 1991, out of which 33.1 per cent and 34.0 per cent were male and female youth respectively. However, the percentage of youth (15-34 years) to the country's population was 30.6 in 1971 and 32.2 in 1981 respectively. In the case of Manipur, as per 1991 census, there were 6,73,534 persons between the age group of 15-34 in Manipur, which was 36.64 per cent of the total population. Moreover, of the 36.64 per cent youth, 18.37 per cent were reported to be male and 18.27 per cent

female respectively. It may further be noted that youth in the age groups of 15-19 was 10.71 per cent, 9.93 per cent in the age group 20-24; in the age group 25-29 it was 9.04 per cent and 6.96 per cent in the age group of 30-34 respectively.

Table 1.1 Distribution of Youth Population in Manipur, (1991 census)

Age- group	Persons	Males	Females	Persons*	Males*	Females*
15-19	1,96,842	96,881	99,961	10.71	5.27	5.44
20-24	1,82,567	92,812	89,755	9.93	5.05	4.88
25-29	1,66,216	82,968	83,248	9.04	4.51	4.53
30-34	1,27,909	65,057	62,852	6.96	3.54	3.42
15-34	6,37,537	3,37,718	3,35,816	36.64	18.37	18.27

* indicates percentage to total population

Source: Statistical Abstract of Manipur, 1998.

1.2 Defining Unemployment

The problem of unemployment has been one of the deepest concerns in most countries of the world. It is commonly faced by both the industrialized (developed) and non-industrialized (under-developed) countries. It is a major problem facing India as well. It is the main source of hardship, deprivation and suffering to many people and society at large. Whereas, employment determines ones chances for leading a peaceful and meaningful life. Our action, feeling and thought are also influenced by it. An individual status in the family and community, as well is the reflection of the employment, the person does.

Unemployment on the one hand is a state of being without gainful work. It is considered as an involuntary failure to get income yielding work. It is one

significant sociological problem in the society. Rudolf Gyan D. Mellow defined unemployment as: *“a condition in which an individual is not in a state of remunerative occupation despite his desire to do so”*¹¹. He further observes that *“unemployment is a deprivation of the opportunity to an individual to fulfil his social obligations for which his education and other endowments have qualified him”*. There is no doubt that unemployment hampers the fulfillment of social obligations by individuals.

Fairchild has also defined unemployment as forced or involuntary dissociation from remunerative work¹². Harris and Levenly defined unemployment *“as a condition of one who is able to work but unable to find it”*¹³.

*“An unemployed person may be defined as a man or woman or juvenile of working age between the school leaving age and the pensionable age who is technically and physically fit for a job, willing to work, but unable to find work (Study Group, Royal Institute of International Affairs)”*¹⁴.

The Eight International Conference on Labour Statistics held at Geneva in 1954 defined unemployment as: *“ a person in unemployment is a person above a specific age who is without a job and seeking work for pay or profit”*¹⁵.

Therefore, an unemployed person is one who has potential and willingness to earn or work, but unable to find a remunerative work. Here, it is worthwhile to mention that unemployment has three elements:

- (a) The individual should be capable of working;
- (b) The individual should be willing to work; and
- (c) The individual must make an effort to find a remunerative work.

The definition of unemployment adopted in the Eight International Conference of Employment Statisticians (1954) is as follows: '*(a) workers available for employment whose contract of employment has terminated or been temporarily suspended and who are without a job and seeking paid employment; (b) persons never previously employed whose most recent status was other than that of employee (i.e. former employers, etc.), together with persons who had been in retirement, who were available for work during the specified period (except for reasons of non-malignant illness) and were seeking paid employment; © persons without a job and currently available for work who have made arrangements to start a new job at a date subsequent to the specified period; and (d) persons temporarily or indefinitely laid off without pay*¹⁶.'

Work provides a variety of satisfactions including achievement, recognition, responsibility and intrinsic pleasure. It also empess a time structure, provide opportunities for social interaction, opportunity for the development of identity and self-esteem. Jahoda has listed five basic needs that are met by the structured framework of employment:

- (a) Work provides a true structure for the day, the week and the year.*
- (b) Work implies regularly shared experiences outside the family.*
- (c) Work links the individual to goals and purposes that transcend his or her own.*
- (d) Work defines aspects of personal status and identity, and*
- (e) Work enforces activity*¹⁷.

Unemployment in underdeveloped countries like India differ from that of developed countries. Unemployment in the developed countries is 'open' or 'visible', and therefore, the jobless are quite aware of their status of being unemployed. Whereas, it is disguised in developing countries like India, and those who would like to be counted as employed are in fact "unemployed by income". Their productivity is very low and income negligible. As for example, in India, a large number of "defacto-unemployed" persons are engaged in some activities as self-employed. Members of large family working lackadaisically on a small plot of land, or a shopkeeper sitting the whole day in his shop but selling very little are all regarded as 'employed' in the conventional sense, but it is because of the country's incapability to employ its labour meaningfully. Actually, these self-employed persons and unpaid family workers can be considered an unemployed, as their productivity is very low. In this regard, it is worthwhile to look at the three aspects of employment as given by Amartya Sen:

- (a) The income aspects: employment gives an income to the employed;*
- (b) The production aspects: employment yields an output; and*
- (c) The recognition aspects: employment gives a person the recognition of being engaged in something¹⁸.*

In most of the developed countries, the state ensures the right to employment to their citizens. In such countries, an involuntary unemployed person can seek compensation in the form of unemployment allowance. Again in such countries, data on unemployment is promptly reported and recorded. Unfortunately, it is not so in developing countries like ours. In India, the right to employment is not a

fundamental right. There is a vast unorganized/ informal sector in the country that has an insufficient database. Rightly speaking, there is a lack of precise, accurate and reliable data/ information on employment and unemployment. It is even worst in the northeastern part of the country. Of the various agencies engaged in the collection of data on employment and unemployment in India, the data collected by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) of the Department of Statistics, Government of India is by far the most comprehensive. Besides NSSO, the Population Censuses and Employment Exchanges are the other major sources of data on unemployment. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has classified employed and unemployed in the following ways:

(a) *Usual Status Approach*: According to this approach, a person who engaged in gainful activities for more than half the days in a reference year is a “usual principal status” workers and which is likely to continue in the future. Moreover, a person who pursues some gainful activity for less than half of the 365 days is a ‘usual subsidiary status’ worker. Persons belonging to these categories constitute the category of the employed. On the other hand, if a person is not working but is looking or available for work for more than half of the days in the year is unemployed. In addition, if a person, who is neither working nor seeking nor available for work for more than half of the year, is ‘not in the labour force’.

(b) *Current weekly status approach*: Under the current weekly status approach, a person is considered as employed if he or she had engaged in any gainful activity atleast for one hour on any one day of the reference week. Moreover, if a person who doesn’t pursue any economic activity for even one hour on any day

but who is seeking or available for work at any time during the week is classified as unemployed. All other situations become relevant for categorising the person outside the labour force.

(c) *Current daily status approach*: Under this approach, a person is considered employed, if the person worked for four hours or more on the day. Whereas, if a person who works for one hour or more but less than four hour is considered employed for half day. And, if a person who doesn't work but is available or seeking for work more or less than four hour a day is unemployed for the whole day or half day respectively.

The Planning Commission of India considers a person as 'marginally unemployed' when he/she remains without work for six months in a year. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) regards a person 'employed' if he/she remains with work for 15 hours (two days) in a week (of five days).

1.2.1 Types of Unemployment

Most commonly, economists have generally classified the following types of unemployment, differentiating them on the basis of the causes: (a) frictional unemployment (b) seasonal unemployment (c) structural unemployment, and (d) cyclical unemployment. These types are briefly explain as follows:

(a) *Frictional unemployment*: This type of unemployment is usually of transitional or short run nature, which is due to the movement of people or workers between jobs. This includes workers who have voluntarily left their jobs to seek

others. This is unavoidable aspect of any labour market. Usually, this type of unemployment is not considered a significant economic problem.

(b) *Seasonal unemployment*: This kind of unemployment is associated with rather predictable swings in employment and job seeking that occurs at a similar time of each year. Weather or natural factors affect employment seasonally in four ways. They are: (i) determining the time for the growing, harvesting and processing of many raw products (agricultural commodities and fishing); (ii) by influencing outdoor work (example: lumbering in the northern part of the United States, Great Lakes shipping, building, and road construction); (iii) by influencing consumer demands (fuel, fans, air-conditioners, screens, storm windows, awnings, cold drinks, and vacation services); and (iv) by influencing the employment necessary to the packaging and transportation of the goods and services involved in the first three (railroad carloadings, building materials, and the manufacture of containers).

(c) *Structural unemployment*: This type of unemployment results from major imbalances in the supply of and demand for, particular kind of labour. This refers to the general problem of mismatch between jobs and workers. For example, technological changes, the development of new industries and demise of old ones, and the changing economic role of different regions in the country, all mean that new kinds of jobs need to be done and that many old ones cease to exist. The new jobs require different skills and educational background than the old ones and frequently located in different geographical regions. Workers often themselves displaced by these structural changes. Structural unemployment also arises, if there

is an imbalance between the number of workers looking for jobs and the number of jobs available.

(d) *Cyclical unemployment*: Unemployment caused by economic fluctuation is called cyclical unemployment. This refers to the general slackening of demands during recession periods. Cyclical unemployment is caused by the ups and downs in the trade and business. For an example, when an entrepreneur can earn high profit, they normally invest more in business which increases employment, but when they get less profit or suffer from losses or their products remain unsold, they reduce the number of workers in their industries which causes unemployment.

Our country is facing the serious problem of unemployment, which is a great social and economic loss. Unemployment that is, the non-utilization of human resources accelerates poverty and various other societal problems. The nature of unemployment in India is structural and permanent; whereas in developed countries like the United States or Japan, the nature of unemployment is frictional and cyclical. In less-developed countries like India, the structure of economy (primary, secondary and tertiary sectors) is backward. In addition, capital and other resources are inadequate (for investing in education, industries and services) to meet the growing demand (for resources and employment) of the increasing population of the economy. Thus, there is a mismatch between capital structure and labour force. Unemployment caused by such structural backwardness is called structural unemployment and is a dominant form of unemployment in developing countries like India. India's unemployment is mainly structural in nature. It is because of the inadequacy of the productive capacity to create enough jobs for all those able and

willing to work. In such countries, the production capacity is increasing at a level lower than the rapid increase in the labour force because of the rapidly growing population. It is pertinent here to briefly look at the various forms of unemployment, which are peculiar to India.

(a) *Rural unemployment*: Unemployment in rural India is a very serious problem. In rural side, there is absolute lack of industrialization process. Even the basic infrastructure is far from satisfactory. Moreover, the population is expanding at a very fast rate than the employment opportunities available. There is increasing heavy pressure on land, decline of handicrafts and village industries, backward nature of cultivation and absence of alternative occupation resulted in rural unemployment in large scale.

(b) *Seasonal unemployment*: It is so called because it occurs at certain season of a year. It is closely associated with agriculture, and is a widespread phenomenon in Indian villages. Therefore, there is heavy work during rainy season in which agricultural operations takes place, whereas there is no work for the rest of the year.

(c) *Disguised unemployment*: This type of unemployment is common in underdeveloped countries. This refers to unemployment that is not in open for every one to see, it remains invisible. In our villages, for example, people are found to be apparently engaged in agricultural activities. However, such employment is mostly work-sharing device, i.e., the existing work is shared, however large may be the number of workers. In such situation, even if many of workers are withdrawn, the same work will be done by fewer people. It shows that not all the workers are required to maintain the existing level of production.

(d) *Educated unemployment*: Joblessness among the educated persons is known as educated unemployment. This is widespread in India.. With the rapid expansion of education, thousands and thousands of educated are added every year but many of them remain without any gainful activity.

(e) *Underemployment*: It is a situation in which employed people are contributing to production less than they are capable of. Underemployment refers to those in the labour force who are involuntarily working part-time (visible underemployment) or those who are working below their capacity (invisible underemployment). Underemployment is also very common in India.

1.3 Education and Unemployment (India)

Education is one of the major agencies of socialisation and social change. It is an important institution in any modern or modernising society. It inculcates values, sentiments and behavioral patterns that are considered appropriate in a given society. Education is not limited to gain knowledge only, but to utilise the knowledge for himself or herself, and for the society as a whole. Education is also a symbol of status and power. Parents send their children to school early so that they start getting education at the right time. No doubt, education is considered as a major source of economic progress both for the individual and for society. It imparts the necessary skill with which one may cope with the complicated demand of the technical age. It is the chief instrument of upward mobility. An individual acquires and accumulates knowledge, skill, attitudes and insight by a life long process of

education. The essence and role of education as envisaged in the National Policy on Education of 1986 (with modification undertaken in 1992) are:

i. In our national perception, education is essentially for all. This is fundamental to our all round development, material and spirit.

ii. Education has an acculturating role. It refines sensitivities and perceptions that contribute to national cohesion, a scientific temper and independence of mind and spirit thus furthering the goals of socialism, secularism and democracy in our constitution.

iii. Education develops manpower for different levels of the economy. It is also the substrate on which research and development flourish, being the ultimate guarantee of national self-reliance.

iv. In sum, education is a unique investment in the present and the future. This cardinal principle is the key to the National Policy on Education¹⁹.

We are experiencing the rapid expansion of education. Every year a large number of educated come out from different educational institutions with the hope of getting gainful employment. At the times of India's independence, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the entire country. In addition, the number of students and teachers as a whole was very small. However, after independence, there has been an exponential increase in all these numbers. There has been considerable progress in the spread of educational institutions in the last fifty years. At the beginning of the year 1999-2000, the total number of students enrolled in the universities and colleges were 74.18 Lakh, out of which 12.25 Lakh were in university departments and 61.98 Lakh in the affiliated colleges. Eighty per cent of

the total enrollment was concentrated in the three faculties of Arts (40 per cent), Sciences (20 per cent) and Commerce (20 per cent) while the remaining 20 per cent were absorbed by the professional faculties. Enrollment at the degree level was 65.20 Lakh (87.9 per cent), at the PG level 7.25 Lakh (9.8 per cent) and the remaining at research and diploma/ certificate levels.

As far as enrollment of students in schools is concerned, the total enrollment at the primary stage during 1950-51 was 19.2 million, increased to 108.7 million during 1997-98. Likewise, the enrollment at the upper primary stage was 3.1 million in 1950-51 and 39.5 million in 1997-98, and at the secondary and senior secondary stage rose from 1.5 million to 27.24 million during the mentioned period. Hence, during the period 1950-51 to 1997-98, the enrollment registered an increase of 5.6 times at the primary, 12.7 times at the upper primary and 18.1 times in the secondary and senior secondary level.

During the period 1950-51 and 1997-98, primary schools registered an increased of 2.82 times (209671 to 610763), upper primary schools by 13.6 times (13596 to 185506), high/higher secondary schools/Junior colleges by 14.4 times (7416 to 107100), colleges for general education by 18 times (370 to 7199), colleges for professional education by 9.9 times (208 to 2075) and the universities registered an increased of 8.4 times (27 to 229).

The number of unemployed persons in the country registered in employment exchanges in 1952 was 4.37 lakhs, in 1971 it increased to 50.99 lakhs, in 1981 to 178 lakhs, in 1990 to 334 lakhs in 1995 to 381 lakhs and in 2001 to 412 lakhs.

Table 1.2 Employment Exchanges Statistics, India, 2000 -01 (in '000 nos.)

1	Number of Employment Exchanges	.873
2	Registration (including re-registrations) during the period	4835
3	Applicants on live register	41232
4	Vacancies notified during the period	324.2
5	Placement effected	171.2

Source: *Monthly Abstract of Statistics, Vol.54, No. 6, June 2001, CSC, GOI, New Delhi.*

Table above indicates that as on March 2001 there are altogether 873 employment exchanges in the entire country with 41,232 thousand applicants in the live register. There are 4,835 thousand registration including re-registration done as against 324.2 thousand vacancies notified and only 171.2 thousand placement effected during the period. 2000-2001 in the entire country.

1.4 Education in Manipur

There are sufficient evidences that the early Manipuris had left valuable treasures of knowledge inscribed on copper plates, coins etc. Besides, there are many books written in Meitei Mayek on various subjects like history, religion, dance and drama, hunting, fighting, medicine etc. Some of the recently discovered documents are as old as 3rd century AD. The Manipuri word for education is *Mahei*. No doubt, the system of education of early Manipuris was based on learning through oral transmission of knowledge from one generation to the other. Education in those days was based in the broad sense as well as in the narrow sense. In the broad sense, education means self-culture and improvement throughout the lifetime of a person.

In the narrow sense, it means learning the skill of a particular trade or profession, such as goldsmith, carpentry, pottery, embroidery, agriculture, sericulture etc²⁰. It also aimed at achieving physical strength, courage and obedience among the Manipuri youth to safeguard the motherland.

The main method of learning was listening, contemplating and practice. The teacher recited the texts and performed the art or skill, and the students repeated the same. The available evidences further show that the scope of studies was vast and varied. There are books written in 23 disciplines such as literature, administration, history, geography, medicine, astronomy, religion, dance and songs, moral teachings and others²¹.

In the preliminary stage, a general course on education was introduced whereby the students would learn the Manipuri (Meitei) alphabets in the house of the *Oja* (teacher) or at some recognised places. The main objective of the initial stage of learning was to impress upon the student's mind the ideas of scientific method, order, principle and system of rule. When a student has acquired the necessary knowledge of learning of language and literature, he was then exposed to the pursuit of advanced courses of studies, which will help him in developing the reasoning faculty, aesthetic sense and practical skill. Thereafter, the students were given training in various other subjects of professional and technical courses²².

To preserve the dignity of the motherland, young Manipuris were also trained to become soldiers. There were military training centres in the villages and in the King's palace. The King maintained a good militia that consisted of infantry and cavalry. About the military personnel of King's militia, E.W.Dun wrote, "*The men*

of the infantry are of good physique, capable of bearing fatigue, patience, willingness and obedience. They are always ready to march carrying their own provisions, building their own huts, and if necessary entrenching themselves"²³.

In the past, relation between the teacher and the taught was very good. Parents were also responsible for transmitting knowledge to their wards. Manipuri language had been a powerful instrument of spreading education from the early times. Kangla was a great centre of learning. The *Kangla* was described as the University of Manipur just like Nalanda and Taxila ²⁴. In those days, certain indigenous materials were used for education. For example, Agarbark was used for writing in place of paper. It was prepared from the Agor trees. Date palm leaf and Tengna were also used for writing purpose. Permanent black and bright ink was prepared from Lac, lamp shoot and rice.

The British brought modern education in Manipur. However, it has made little progress during the colonial period. In the beginning of the 19th century, a school was established with great effort by George Gordon, but lasted for about a year only because of the lack of public response. In 1872, W.E. Nuthal, the then political agent, opened a school at Imphal, but the school couldn't last long. Sir James Johnstone, who was in Manipur as political agent during 1977-86, with king's approval established an English school at Imphal in 1885. Again in 1894, William Pettigrew, an English missionary started a school at Imphal. The school was also closed down because the authorities decided against its continuation because of his evangelization. Nevertheless, Pettigrew was permitted to work among the Tangkhul Nagas and hence Ukhrul became the mission centre. By the end of 1897, there were

only one Middle English school and four Lower Primary schools in Manipur. A girl school was opened at Imphal in 1899. In 1902, the number of schools in the valley rose to 18 with a total enrollment of 1450.

Until 1921, there were no high schools in Manipur; so many students could not continue their secondary education. However, in 1921, Jonstone M.E. school was upgraded to high school level and by 1936 there were altogether 60 schools in Manipur. The first college was established in 1946. After the independence of India, education made rapid progress in Manipur too. There were 455 primary schools, 82 secondary schools and 1 college in 1951. The table here indicates the growth of educational institutions in Manipur.

Table 1.3 Growth of Educational Institutions, Manipur

Years	Uni ver sity	Collage for General Education	College for professional & other education	Schools	Schools for professional & other education	Total
1960-61	-	2	1	2,036	31	2,070
1970-71	-	12	14	2,986	37	3,049
1980-81	-	24	41	3,576	42	3,683
1990-91	1	31	32	4,309	21	4,394
1995-96	1	52	34	3,624	-	3,711
1996-97	2	53	37	3,629	77	3,798

Sources: Statistical Handbook of Manipur, 1992 and Economic Survey, Manipur, 1999-2000

There were altogether 2,070 educational institutions in 1960-61 in Manipur, the corresponding figure rose to 3,049 in 1970-71; 3,683 in 1980-81; 4,394 in 1990-91 and 3,798 in 1996-97. In addition, the number of colleges for general education increased from 2 in 1960-61 to 53 in 1996-97, which is more than twenty six times increase. Likewise, the number of professional colleges increased from 1 to 37.

during the said period. The total number of schools including professional schools in 1960-61 was 2,067 rose to 3,706 in 1996-97.

The enrollment of students in different levels of education has registered a fast increasing trend. As it is seen in the table given below, in 1960-61, there were altogether 1,58,847 students in different educational institutions, whereas in 1997-98, it was 5,48,739.

Table 1.4 Enrollment of Students, Manipur

Year	Schools	College for General Education	University	College for professional & other education	Schools for professional & other education	Total
1960-61	1,52,486	2,014	-	112	4,235	1,58,847
1970-71	2,39,471	10,152	-	345	8,408	2,58,376
1980-81	2,91,834	20,559	-	1,399	4,521	3,18,313
1990-91	3,93,747	39,024	1,301	4,177	3,410	4,41,659
1996-97	4,90,192	43,577	1,586	6,770	4,614	5,48,739
1997-98	5,27,789	44,849	-	-	-	-

- Data not available

*Source: Statistical Abstract of Manipur, 1998,
Economic Survey, Manipur, 1999-2000,
Manipur At A Glance, 1998.*

Because of the rapid expansion of educational institutions and enrollment, the percentage of literacy in the state has also risen. In the beginning of the twentieth century (1901), the percentage of literacy was less than one percent, whereas it was 59.9 per cent in 1991, as against the all India figure of 52.21 per cent. So far, elsewhere Imphal district (now Imphal East and Imphal West districts) recorded the

highest rate of literacy, accounting to 70.7 per cent in the state. Information available from 2001 Census shows the literacy rate of Manipur stands at 68.87 per cent, which is 8.97 per cent growth from the 1991 census.

Table 1.5 Literacy Percentage of Manipur and All India according to 1991 census by sex and sector

State/Region	Sector	Literacy Percentage		
		Person	Male	Female
All India	Rural	44.69	57.87	30.62
	Urban	73.02	81.09	64.05
	Combined	52.2	64.10	39.30
Manipur	Rural	55.79	67.64	43.26
	Urban	70.53	82.11	58.67
	Combined	59.89	71.63	47.60

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India

1.5 Employment in Manipur

Manipur is a small and economically backward state, with a per capita income (at 1980-81 prices) of Rs. 2,155 in 1997-98. Agriculture and its allied activities are the main occupation of the people of the state. According to 1991 census, the work force participation ratio of Manipur is 38.6 per cent, out of which 68 per cent are engaged in primary sectors and the rest, 32 per cent in secondary (20.3 per cent) and tertiary (9.7 per cent) sectors. The state is endowed with rich resources both natural as well as human. However, it has remained one of the most economically backward states in the country due to lack of adequate infrastructure like power, transport and communication, skilled labour, shortage of capital and low level of credit facilities etc. Again, the state of her economy is reflective of regional

disparities in terms of infrastructure facilities. The valley areas being comparatively more developed than the hill areas.

Table 1.6 Work Participation rate as per 1991 census, Manipur & India

Category	Manipur			All India		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Population (in 1000)	1,837	938	898	8,46,303	4,39,231	4,07,072
Work participation rate (main + marginal)	42.2	45.3	39.0	37.5	51.6	22.3
Primary sector (in %)	70.0	65.4	76.5	67.5	63.6	81.2
Secondary sector (in %)	9.7	6.5	14.1	12.0	13.1	8.0
Tertiary sector (in %)	20.3	28.1	9.4	20.5	23.3	10.8

Source: Selected Socio Economic Statistics, India 1996-97 (combined) CSO, New Delhi.

The state is industrially very backward, there is no large and medium scale industries, which can provide employment in larger numbers. For Manipur employment in public and private sectors are 97 per cent and 3 per cent persons respectively, whereas 71 per cent and 29 per cent persons for all India. The total number of employment in the organised sector stood at around 79 thousands as on 31.3.1996. Presently, the state is giving maximum emphasis in the development of small scale and cottage industries, such as handloom, handicraft and sericulture keeping in view of their potential for larger employment generation. Handloom industry is the largest industry in the state. It is a traditional cottage industry providing avenues of employment opportunities to the Manipuris. Majorities of the handloom weavers are self-employed artisans who are carrying on their profession in their own homes with the assistance of the family members. Manipur ranked fourth in terms of number of looms in the country, with an estimated more than 2.7

Lakhs looms. According to National Handloom Census, 1987, the state has more than 2.8 weavers of which 1 Lakh are full time weavers. Again handicraft is another important industry in the state, which has its own unique identity amongst the various crafts in the country and contribute to economic development of the people in the state. The state government of Manipur also made effort for overall development of handloom and handicraft industries in the state. The Manipur Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation (MHHDC) and Manipur Development Society (MDS) are two principal agencies taking utmost effort for production and marketing of handloom and handicraft products. The Manipur State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society, an apex co-operative society play big role in co-operative sector for the development of handloom and handicraft in the state.

Table 1.7 Growth of Registered Permanent Industrial Units and Employment, Manipur

Year	No. of Industrial units	Annual Growth rate of I.U.	No. of Employment	Annual Growth rate of Employment	Average no. of Employment
1987-88	3,996	-	19,900	-	5.0
1988-89	5,417	35.56	27,000	35.67	5.0
1989-90	6,319	16.65	31,500	16.66	5.0
1990-91	6,788	7.42	33,390	6.00	5.0
1991-92	7,392	8.89	35,910	10.54	4.9
1992-93	7,696	4.11	38,400	4.03	5.0
1993-94	8,096	5.19	39,680	3.33	4.9
1994-95	8,341	3.02	42,613	7.39	5.1
1995-96	8,612	3.24	43,842	2.88	5.1
1996-97	8,918	3.55	45,362	3.46	5.1
1997-98	9,090	1.92	46,390	2.26	5.1

Source: Economic Survey, Manipur 1999-2000.

The above table shows the growth of small-scale industrial units in Manipur since 1987-88. There were a sharp increased in the number of industrial units during the period 1987-88 and 1988-1989 and the annual growth rate being 35.56 per cent

and the corresponding annual growth of employment was 35.67 per cent. By the end of March 1998, the number of registered permanent small-scale industries stood at 9,090 with an investment in plant and machinery of Rs.30.05 crores employing 46,390 persons with an annual production of Rs.134.89 crores. Whereas during 1987-88, it was 3,996 with an investment of Rs.12.30 crores employing 19,900 persons with an annual production of Rs.67.26 crores. It is apparent that development of small-scale industries (SSI) will be one of the most important features in the economic development of the state. Again, the average number of employment per unit is increased from 5.0 persons in 1990-91 to 5.1 persons in 1997-98. As per the Economic Census 1990, there were altogether 61,264 enterprises (4,977 agricultural and 56,287 non-agricultural) in the entire state, whereas the corresponding figure rose to 79,555 enterprises that is, 6,016 (7.56 per cent) for agricultural sector and 73,539 (92.44 per cent) for non-agricultural sector in the Economic Census 1998. The share of rural enterprises was 55.20 percent in 1990 and 53.59 percent in 1998. As per the Economic Census 1998, about 1.96 Lakh persons were usually working in 79,555 enterprises in the state. The agricultural enterprises comprising of 6,016 give employment to 10,682 persons, which is an average employment of 1.78 persons per agricultural enterprise. The non-agricultural enterprises numbering 73,539 provides employment to 1,85,313 persons. The average employment per non-agricultural enterprise was 2.52 persons. Also, out of the 6,016 agricultural enterprises, 4,100 units were located in rural areas and 1,916 are in urban areas. Again, of the 73,539 non-agricultural enterprises, 39,533 were located in rural areas and 35,006 in urban areas. Moreover, of the total

79,555 enterprises in the entire state, 42,633 (53.59 percent) enterprises were located in rural areas, while 36,922 (46.41 percent) enterprises were located in urban areas. The following table provides the district-wise number of enterprises and employment.

Table 1.8 No. of Enterprises and Persons Usually Working in Manipur, 1998

Districts	All Enterprises			Person Usually Working		
	Total	Agricultural	Non-agricultural	All Enterprises	Agricultural	Non-agricultural
Senapati	4,748	118	4,630	9,978	311	9,667
Tamenglong	1,420	30	1,390	3,969	63	3,906
Churachandpur	2,716	25	2,691	6,778	95	6,683
Chandel	3,065	170	2,895	6,321	244	6,077
Thoubal	12,643	497	12,146	30,642	830	29,812
Bishnupur	12,449	3,137	9,312	24,645	4,934	19,711
Imphal West	28,550	1,443	27,107	83,040	3,073	79,967
Imphal East	11,407	554	10,853	23,151	1,013	22,138
Ukhrul	2,557	42	2,515	7,471	119	7,352
Manipur	79,555	6,016	73,539	1,95,995	10,682	1,85,313

Note: Fourth Economic Census 1998 covered all the economic activities under agricultural and non-agricultural sectors except the enterprises engaged in crop production and plantation.

Source: *Economic Survey, Manipur 1999-2000*.

The major obstacles that stand in the way of economic development of Manipur may be summarized as follows:

- i. Backwardness of agriculture, poor agricultural technology and even lack of investment in agriculture.

- ii. The lack of adequate infrastructure like power, transport and communication, skilled labour, shortage of capital and difficult hilly terrain.
- iii. Neglect of industry.
- iv. Under-utilisation of vast natural resources.
- v. Poor performance of developmental schemes, and
- vi. Rapid growth of population.

Moreover, in recent years the process of development in the state has been affected by the ongoing insurgency movement and political instability.

1.6 Educated Unemployment in Manipur

An increasing number of educated are now experiencing long-term unemployment in Manipur. Educated unemployment is widespread in Manipur. It is a very serious problem facing the state today, which will prove very harmful to the state. It is a very difficult problem for Manipur to solve. The unemployed may become alienated from the social order because of frustration and anger, with the system that could not provide them with work. It might aggravate the political instability even further. The number of educated persons have increased very fast as compared to the expansion of employment opportunities in the state. The table given below clearly indicates the number of registration, placement offered, total jobseekers and annual growth of jobseekers in Manipur.

Table 1.9 Registration, Placement and Annual Growth of Job-seekers, Manipur

Years	Registration during the year	Placement during the year	Percentage of placement to registration	Jobseekers on the live register	Annual growth rate of jobseekers
1980-81	21,272	703	3.30	1,15,548	-
1981-82	-	-	-	-	-
1982-83	18,541	955	5.15	1,53,691	16.50
1983-84	24,701	664	2.60	1,76,931	15.12
1984-85	21,107	638	3.02	1,94,581	9.97
1985-86	44,510	402	0.90	2,37,179	21.89
1986-87	31,280	537	1.71	2,66,694	12.44
1987-88	24,711	1,909	7.72	2,49,074	-6.60
1988-89	28,300	226	0.79	2,48,438	-0.25
1989-90	25,306	292	1.15	2,54,310	2.36
1990-91	33,453	242	0.72	1,83,395*	-27.84
1991-92	20,310	174	0.85	1,98,148	7.98
1992-93	18,455	310	1.67	2,15,677	8.84
1993-94	29,894	1,390	4.64	2,41,272	11.86
1994-95	19,189	1,085	5.65	2,49,910	3.58
1995-96	30,135	143	0.47	2,76,157	10.50
1996-97	28,189	579	2.05	2,99,881	8.59
1997-98	31,007	429	1.38	3,22,253	7.46
1998-99	37,861	162	0.42	3,54,269	9.93
1999-2000	-	-	-	3,87,276	9.31

* This sudden decrease is because of removal of names because of non-renewal.

- Data are not available

*Source: Statistical Abstract of Manipur, 1998,
Economic Survey, Manipur, 1999-2000*

An analysis of the table shows the number of registration, placement done and the annual growth of jobseekers from 1980-81 to 1999-2000. It is seen that the number of registrants in 1980-81 was 21,272; 33,453 in 1990-91 and 37,861 in 1998-99 which indicates an increasing trend. Moreover, the number of placement in subsequent years is found to be declining trend, as shown above 703 in 1980-81, 242 in 1990-91 and only 162 in 1998-99. Hence, there is a huge gap between the registration and the placement done, the percentage of placement to registration was 3.30 in 1980-81, 7.72 in 1987-88 and 0.42 in 1998-99. During 1960-61, there were just 10,639 jobseekers with the employment exchanges in the entire Manipur, the

figure rose to 1,15,546 in 1980-81; 1,83,495 in 1990-91; 3,22,253 in 1997-98 and 3,87,276 in 1999-2000. The annual growth rate of jobseekers from 1990-91 to 1991-92 was 7.98 per cent and 9.93 per cent between 1997-98 to 1998-99.

Table 1.10 Estimated Number of Educated Jobseekers, Manipur

Educational Level	1994	1996	1998
Matriculates	1,01,497	1,18,535	1,51,224
Undergraduate	34,415	40,795	57,801
Graduate & Above	32,479	32,363	48,809
Total Educated	1,68,391	1,91,693	2,57,834

Source: Compiled from the figures provided by the Directorate of Employment, Government of Manipur, Imphal

In the recent years, educated unemployment in Manipur has been expanding very fast. From the Table 1.10 above we see that there were 1,68,391 educated jobseekers registered with the employment exchanges in 1994, the number rose to 1,91,693 in 1996 and 2,57,834 in 1998. Of the 2,57,834 educated jobseekers in 1998, 1,51,224 are matriculates, 57,801 are undergraduate and 48,809 are graduate and above.

Table 1.11 Jobseekers Registered with Employment Exchanges, Classified According to Educational level and Age group, Manipur (1999-2000)

Age Group	Below Matric Including illiterate	Matriculate	Undergraduate	Graduate	Post Graduate	Others	Total	Percentage
0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	1,288	1,071	1,095	-	-	29	3,483	0.90
20-24	5,680	4,146	3,089	2,088	-	167	15,170	3.91
25-29	11,575	2,0734	10,007	8,803	134	826	52,079	13.44
30-34	25,626	93,085	22,914	18,694	2,673	1,204	1,64,196	42.40
35-39	82,906	17,395	13,776	7,455	1,803	718	1,24,053	32.03
40-49	2,033	12,352	6,155	2,784	828	123	24,275	6.27
50-59	335	2,441	765	397	82	-	4,020	1.04
60+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,29,443	15,1224	57801	40221	5,520	3,067	3,87,276	100
Percent age	33.42	39.04	14.92	10.38	1.42	0.79		

Source: Directorate of Employment, Government of Manipur, Imphal

An analysis of the table indicates that overwhelming majorities of the jobseekers (74.43%) belong to the age between 30-39 years, of which 42.40 per cent are between 30-34 years and 32.03 per cent are between 35-39 years. Moreover, another 13.44 per cent belong to the age between 25-29 years. Again, 33.42 per cent of the jobseekers are below matriculate. However, 39.04 per cent are matriculate, 14.92 per cent are undergraduate, 11.38 per cent are graduate and 1.42 per cent are post-graduates. In addition, of the total, 3,87,276 jobseekers as on 1999-2000, 73.22 per cent are males and the remaining 26.77 percent are females.

Part Two

Review of Literature, Aims of the Research and Methodology

1.7 Review of Literature

At this stage, we briefly review of some of the important studies relating to youth unemployment in India and abroad.

In a population of highly educated Israeli adults, Shamir found that depressive effect and anxiety both improved when those who have been previously unemployed went back to work, and worsened when those who had been employed become unemployed²²⁵. Studies also indicate that men suffer more during unemployment than women do (Jahoda²⁶ and Oversen²⁷). Jahoda wrote, *“Even if women prefer to have a job, unemployment hits them less hard than men psychologically speaking because an alternative is available to them to return to the traditional role of housewives that provides some time structure, some sense of purpose, status and activity even though it offers little scope for wider social experiments”*²⁸. Study conducted by Swedish sociologists Carle and Schale found that youth unemployment has destructive effect and that such a new attitudes towards works does not exist²⁹.

Sinha’s study of the attitude of the unemployed towards family shows that dependence of the family increased with unemployment³⁰. Long term unemployment may make a man isolate himself from community organizations, lack of income and embarrassment may cause him to withdraw from recreational groups, political organisation and even church (Wilcock and Franke)³¹.

Studies conducted by Stafford Banks and Jackson³², and Kieselbach and Sveusson³³ report low mental health among unemployed. Unemployment causes a lot of mental tension, and hardship particularly among the persons belonging to low or middle class, and the stress resulting from unemployment is greater for those having dependents (Huppert and Garcia)³⁴. Kasl and Cobb³⁵ found that unemployed males had higher rates of depression and anxiety than employed controls and they remain so even after re-employment. A study conducted by Bose, P.K., Sanyal, B.C. and Majumdar, S.P.³⁶ in West Bengal indicated that over half of university graduates received employment information informally from their parents, relatives and teachers. The study also examined the problems related to pattern of educational development and the development of the country, contribution of education towards meeting the demands of the economy. It also examine the reason for the pursuit of higher education, faculty choice and satisfaction, transition from higher education to work and the factors influencing job satisfaction, mobility in the working life etc.

Recent studies by Iversen and Sabroe³⁷; Kiesselbach and Svensson³⁸; Rani³⁹; L.B.Singh⁴⁰; Kumari⁴¹; and Winfield and Tiggermann⁴² have indicated that unemployment affects a man not only physically and psychologically, but also causes a sharp decline in him of human values.

Researchers into the adjustment pattern of the unemployed, in general, have indicated them as having relatively poor adjustment pattern. For example, Dumont (1977) has reported that joblessness is sensitively related to mental illness, sexual impotence, crime, alcoholism and suicide⁴³. Migration, divorce and child abuse resulting in personal and financial pathology is some other repercussion of

unemployment (Platt)⁴⁴. Studies conducted by Brenner and Starrin⁴⁵; Kieselbach and Svensson⁴⁶; have indicated that the unemployed are relatively more vulnerable to psychological illness and are generally less well adjusted than employed. Y.K.Singh (1990) has confirmed that the unemployed suffer more from the problem of adjustment in every walk of their life (home, health, social, emotional) as well as in their society⁴⁷. Study conducted by Parvathamma (1984) entitled '*Employment Problems of University Graduates*' attempted to measure the sociological aspect of graduate unemployment based on the objectives like role of formal education in employment and unemployment, causes of unemployment, status of unemployed graduates in the society, vocational interests of the students and their suggestions regarding the vocationalisation of education etc⁴⁸.

A study by Association of Indian Universities (1991) entitled '*Graduate Unemployment in India*' attempted to find out the incidence, nature and consequences of the problem of graduate unemployment in India. Some important findings of the study are (a) The magnitude of unemployment is an ever-rising phenomena. The malaise is more rampant among the arts graduates, (b) The major cause of unemployment, as perceived by the respondents of the study are: over-population, insufficient economic development and poor planning, (c) Wage employment is the most attractive form of employment, and (d) The main lacuna in the schemes of employment generation launched by the government are the lack of proper implementation, red-tapism, complicated regulation, delays in release of loans etc⁴⁹. Studies by Donovan and Oddy⁵⁰, and Hepworth⁵¹ shows that the unemployed have poor subjective well being and inadequate social adjustment.

Unemployment constitutes a threat to the welfare of the society (Hedborg and Meidner⁵², and Andersen et.al,⁵³).

A long spell of unemployment ruins a man dignity and self-respect; it creates a sense of frustration and eventually of uselessness; it saps his power of concentration and his capacity for normal enjoyment (Gilmer)⁵⁴. Young people without jobs tend to be those with fewest academic qualifications, and they tend to come from families of manual workers in which other people are also unemployed (Holland⁵⁵ and Raffe⁵⁶). There is some evidence that unemployed youth are more likely to suffer from mental and psychological illness (Junankar)⁵⁷. Youth unemployment has also been said to be responsible for an increase in crime and civil disorder (Junankar)⁵⁸.

Prem Kirpal (1976) in his study '*Youth and Established Culture*' in mid 70's carefully explain that the following factors are responsible for the rise of youth dissent and criticism of established culture after the independence of India:

(a) The problem of developing economy; (b) The irrelevance of education; (c) The course of political life; (d) The alienation's from the social institutions; (e) The cultural life of society; (f) The influence of mass media; (g) The problem urbanization (h) International life and world consciousness; and (i) The crisis of values⁵⁵.

Karanath, G.K. (1981) studies of rural youth in Karnataka investigated certain aspects of social structure in relation to the rural youth of Karnataka. The study analysed the youth in relation to caste, family, marriage, education and employment, politics and factionalism, and their leisure time activities⁶⁰. Sheehrawat

and Sharma (1994) study of 100 educated unemployed youth shows that the most important factors which dissuaded the rural youth from taking farming as an occupation were: (a) attraction towards white collar jobs; (b) uncertainty about the failure of fields crops; (c) low price for crop produce; (d) assured income in service; and (e) low profit in farming as compared with other businesses⁶¹. Anne Hammarstorm, Urban Janlert and Tores Theorell (1988) study "*Youth Unemployment and Ill Health: Result from a 2- year follow-up study*" in a small city in northern part of Sweden found that unemployment leads to increased psychosomatic and psychological symptoms, decreased social activities in clubs, increased abuse of alcohol and narcotics and increased utilisation of health care services⁶². Based on these pioneering works, the present work is an attempt to specifically study the problems relating to unemployment among the educated youth.

1.8 Aims of the Research

The aims of the present study are as follows:

- 1) to examine the social background of the educated unemployed youth;
- 2) to determine the employment aspirations and expectations of the educated youth and societal expectation from them;
- 3) to highlight the problems faced by the educated unemployed youth, and the social consequences of youth unemployment.

1.9 Methodology

This study is attempts to examine, analyse and understand the problems of educated unemployed youth and social consequences in the India's northeastern state of Manipur.

1.9.1 Area and milieu of the study

Manipur has been the home to various issues and problems ranging from widespread corruption at the state administration, political instability, ethnic unrest, insurgency movement, problem of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS to fast growing unemployment among the youth population. It is situated in the northeastern corner of India with an area of 22,356 sq. Kms and a population of 23,88,634 as per 2001 census, is an economically backward state. It extends between 23.80^o North and 25.68^o North Latitudes, and 93.03^o East and 97.78^o East Longitudes. The state is bounded on the north by Nagaland, on the south by Chin Hills of Myanmar and Mizoram, on the east by Surma track and the upper Chindwin district of Myanmar and the west by the Cachar hills of Assam. Presently, there are nine districts in the state. Manipur is endowed with a rich cultural tradition and has a long historical tradition. Manipur after its defeat in the Anglo-Manipuri war of 1891 lost the status of the sovereign state to that of a Princely State under the British control. Manipur was merged into the Indian Union on 15th October 1949.

Manipur is inhabited by different ethnic and religious groups. It is the homeland of the Meiteis, the Nagas and the Kukis. The Meiteis, who constitute about 58 per cent of the total population, mostly settled in the valley districts. There

are 29 different scheduled tribes and most of the tribes are Christians, who constitute around 34 per cent of the state's population and are mainly settled in the hills. The Muslim constitutes about 7 per cent of the total population. Besides there are other small communities like Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and others who constitute 0.96 per cent of the population. According to 1991 census, about 72.48 per cent of the state's population live in rural areas whereas 27.52 per cent live in urban areas. The percentage of urban population has increased from 0.49 in 1951, to 13.19 in 1971, 26.42 in 1981 and 27.52 in 1991.

Agriculture has been the main occupation of the people of Manipur and hence the main source of income. Women in Manipur from the earlier days have been playing crucial role in the socio-economic development, and hence occupy a high social status in the society. The traditional handloom and handicrafts products of the Manipuris are widely appreciated by the outsiders. Nature has gifted Manipur with vast natural resources that remain unutilised for development.

Imphal, the capital of the state, is the main marketing and administrative centre in the state. The erstwhile Imphal district (now Imphal East and Imphal West districts) has an area of 1,228 sq. Km. with a population of 7,11,261 (1991), that is Imphal West district (3,80,801) and Imphal East district (3,30,460) respectively. Moreover, the density of population is 579 persons per square kilometer (1991 census). The literacy percentage of the state is 59.9; on the other hand, those of Imphal West and Imphal East districts are 73.01 per cent and 60.05 per cent respectively. In addition, Imphal West districts is the most literate district and Imphal East district occupies third in the state. The undivided Imphal district has

4,19,579 rural population and 2,91,682 urban population. There are 2,29,451 main workers and 19,901 marginal workers in these districts, and the percentage of working population to total population is 35.06, that is 34.29 per cent for Imphal East district and 35.29 per cent for Imphal West district respectively.

There are 1,48,483 jobseekers in the live register of employment exchange in the two districts of Imphal during the period 1997-98; 1,37,883 in 1995-96 and 1,18,290 in 1993-94. Moreover, the number of registrants in 1997-98 was 14,507; 16,320 in 1995-96 and 14,437 in 1993-94. However the number of vacancies notified and placement effected were 554/ 285 in 1997-98; 508/ 113 in 1995-96; and 257/ 100 in 1993-94. There are two universities in these districts along with 24 colleges for general education; 229 High/Higher Secondary schools; 212 Middle Schools and 741 Primary schools.

During the period 01-04-1995 to 01-03-1996, there were altogether 30,135 jobseekers registered in different employment exchanges in the entire state, of which 16,320 were registered in the offices of erstwhile Imphal district (now Imphal East and Imphal West districts) alone. Of the 16,320 registrants in erstwhile Imphal district, there were altogether 2,459 graduate and post-graduate jobseekers.

Since there were practical difficulties to cover the entire jobseekers registered in these districts (Imphal East and Imphal West), I have decided to select a sample of 300 educated unemployed from among the 2,459 graduate and post-graduate jobseekers, which accounted for 12.29 per cent only. Of these 2,459 graduate and post-graduate jobseekers, 1,706 (69.37 %) belong to arts background; 633 (25.94%) to science and 115 (4.67%) to commerce background respectively. As

I have fixed a sample of 300 unemployed, by using proportional allocation, the samples size for the three stratas of arts, science and commerce are worked to be 208; 78 and 14 respectively, which are in proportion to the sizes of the three stratas (1,706 arts; 638 science and 115 commerce). This is being calculated by the formula indicated below:

$$n_i = \frac{n}{N} \times N_i \quad i = I, II, III$$

Where, n_i = sample size allocated to the i^{th} stratum

n = total number of sample size;

N_i = the total population size of i^{th} stratum

N = the total population size.

The sample size allocated to the different stratas, which is shown below:

Stratum	Population size (N_i)	Sample Size (n_i)
I: Arts	1,706	208
II: Science	638	78
III: Commerce	115	14
Total	2,459	300

Once the sample sizes for each stratas were calculated, I randomly selected names and addresses of the unemployed from the list maintained by the Employment Exchange located at Lamphelpat in Imphal and readied for the interview. In the whole process 300 (208 arts + 78 science + 14 commerce) educated jobseekers were interviewed.

1.9.2 Data Collection

Data has been collected both from the secondary and primary sources. For the collection of primary data/ information, a questionnaire was prepared, administered to the three hundred educated unemployed and interviewed them personally. The questionnaire was carefully framed to fit the identified objectives of the present research. The questionnaire consisted of questions pertaining to their socio-economic background, their day today activities/life and problems confronted, matters relating to marriage, employment and attitudes towards the working of various societal agencies. The fieldwork took six months (from November 1998 to April 1999) to contact, interact, and interviewed the selected unemployed. Besides, another 50 prominent personalities (social workers, administrators, teachers & journalists) were randomly selected and contacted, to ascertain their views and expectations towards the educated youth in the contemporary Manipuri society. Added to that I informally observed the views of people whom I have come across during the fieldwork and other research related visits to the trouble state.

For the collection of data from the secondary sources, statistics provided by Employment Exchange, Lamphelpat, Imphal and Directorate of Employment, Imphal have also been consulted and used. So also, the reports and books published by Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi; Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T), New Delhi; University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi; Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Imphal, Manipur and other related research articles have been used. In addition a number of journals, both

national and international have also been consulted and used while writing the thesis.

1.9.3 Analysis of Data

The study has adopted only percentage analysis for the data.

1.9.4 Fieldwork Experience

While carrying out this work, I have come across with a number of problems. The fieldwork was very time taking and risky too, because of the uncertain law and order situation in the state. Naturally, some respondents have also refused to cooperate when I approached for the personal interview. In many cases, I have to visit again and again to meet and interview them. However, I am satisfied with the overall response from the respondents.

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CHAPTER II SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

As mentioned in the previous chapter, three hundred educated jobseekers in the two districts of Imphal, that is Imphal East and Imphal West, were contacted and interviewed on the basis of the questionnaire developed for the purpose of the present study. Hence it is pertinent to know their social background before we analyse the various aspects of their day to day life that has been taken up in the subsequent chapters. The present chapter highlights their social background. Essentially, this is a brief descriptive presentation of the social background of the respondents

2.1 Sex and Rural-Urban Background

It is important to show the sex ratio of the respondents. It is found that as many as 71 per cent of unemployed youth interviewed for the purpose of the present study are male and the rest constitute female. Thus, male respondents preponderate in the sample. Interestingly, the data maintained by the state employment exchanges also shows that there are more male jobseekers registered in the employment exchanges in Manipur as compared to their female counterpart. As far as their rural-urban background is concerned, one hundred and sixty youth hail from urban areas, and rest is from the rural areas.

Table 2.1 Sex and Rural-Urban Background of the Respondents

Sex	Rural	Urban	Total	%age
Male	106	108	214	71
Female	34	52	86	29
Total	140	160	300	100

2.2 Age of the Respondents

A look at the age composition of the educated youth reveal that 44.33 per cent respondents are aged ranging between 26-28, and another 42.33 per cent are 29 years or more. Besides, another 12 per cent respondents are between 23-25 years and only 1.33 per cent of the total educated youth belongs to the age group of 20-22 years. An overall picture that emerges from these data is that an overwhelming majority (86.6 per cent) of the educated jobseekers are 25 years old, whereas the remaining 13.3 per cent have not crossed 25 years of age. It is also found that all the unemployed we met and interviewed are below 35 years. From the data we have collected it can be assume that majority of the jobseekers are above 25 years old. As the employment situation deteriorates in the state the educated youth are compelled to experience long-term unemployment. The bulk of unemployed therefore increases with every passing year so also the age of the unemployed. Age distribution of the respondents is further presented in the following table:

Table 2.2 Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Age

Age group	Male	Female	Total	%age
20-22	4	-	4	1.33
23-25	23	13	36	12
26-28	89	44	133	44.33
29+	98	29	127	42.33

2.3 Marital Status

Difficulties in getting gainful employment compel many youth in their prime of life to delay their marriage. It is obvious that a marriage without regular income is not sound propositions at all. An analysis of our data reveals that 94.33 per cent of the educated jobseekers are still unmarried and the remaining 5.66 per cent are married. In other words, out of the 300 unemployed youth, only 17 are married at the time of the fieldwork. Based on the data we have gathered, it is understood that majority of the jobseekers are unmarried.

Table 2.3 Marital status of the respondents

Marital Status	Rural Male	Rural Female	Urban Male	Urban Female	Total	%age
Married	8	1	7	1	17	5.66
Unmarried	98	33	101	51	283	94.33
Total	106	34	108	52	300	

2.4 Religion

As the primary data have been collected from the two valley districts dominated by Manipuri Hindus, the vast majority of the respondents in the present study are Manipuri Hindus. It may be mention here that the four valley districts in the state namely Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal and Bishnupur are dominated by Manipuri Hindus and the other hill districts are predominately Christians. Therefore, the collected data indicates that the vast majority of the respondents are Hindus (88 per cent), followed by those belonging to Christian religion (10 per cent) and Muslim constitutes only 2 per cent.

Table 2.4 Religious Classification of the Respondents

Religion	Number	%age
Hindus	263	88
Christian	30	10
Muslim	7	2

2.5 Education of the Respondents

Education is the basic input for generating human resources in terms of knowledge, skills and for transmitting right values and attitudes. Unfortunately, the rapid expansion of education coupled with slow economic development has created a situation, where large bulk of the educated youth to remain jobless. On the other hand, the ongoing volatile atmosphere that is prevailing in the state has always been the biggest hurdle in bringing a conducive educational atmosphere as well. This deteriorates the quality of education further. Hence there is a tendency among the parents to send their children to get better education elsewhere outside the state. But, this is the prerogative of the well to do families only. Though the exact figure is not available, a rough calculation indicates over a lakh Manipuri students are studying in other places outside the state. Several lakhs of rupees are sent out every month. As expected many of educated youth whom I have interacted for this study studied from other educational institutions outside the state. Although they are highly qualified their present predicament is also self-created to an extent, because majority of them never think of looking for a job elsewhere, as there is strong tendency among them to stay at home in Manipur. Coming to our data 52.66 per cent respondents are

graduates, 46.66 per cent are post-graduates degree holders and the remaining 0.66 per cent are Ph.D. degree holders. In all, 46.66 per cent (140) jobseekers belong to arts background, the second largest i.e. 43.66 per cent (131) are from the discipline of science and the rest, i.e. 9.66 per cent (29) belong to the discipline of commerce.

Table 2.5 Highest Educational Qualifications of the Respondents

Education	Male	Female	Total
Graduation	116 (38.66%)	42 (14%)	158 (52.66%)
Post-Graduation	96 (32%)	44 (14.66%)	140 (46.66%)
Ph.D.	2 (0.66%)	-	2 (0.66%)

Table 2.5.1 Faculty-wise Composition of the Respondents

Faculty	Male	Female	Male + Female	%age
Arts	101	39	140	46.66
Science	93	38	131	43.66
Commerce	20	9	29	9.66

2.6 Parental Education

Parents' education is also an important factor that determines the education of the children. As far as the parents' education is concerned, the available data shows that 19.66 per cent of the respondents' fathers and 44 per cent mothers have no formal education or they are illiterate. However, 80.33 per cent fathers and 56 per cent mothers have formal education. As the data indicates, 17 per cent fathers and 11 per cent mothers are matriculate, another 28.33 per cent fathers and 31 per cent

mothers are undergraduate, while the remaining 35 per cent fathers and 14 percent mothers are graduates or above.

Table 2.7 Parents' Education

Education	Father	Mother
Under Matric and Matric	51 (17%)	33 (11%)
Under-Graduate	85 (28.33%)	93 (31%)
Graduate and above	105 (35%)	42 (14%)
No Formal Education	59 (19.66%)	132 (44%)

2.6 School Attended

Results of matriculation examinations of the Board of Secondary Education in Manipur (BSEM) indicates that the private schools in the state fair far better than the state Government owned or managed schools. Moreover, there is a tendency in the mind of the parents to send their children to privately managed schools, with the hope of giving them better education. Likewise, in recent years many privately managed schools mushroomed up everywhere in the state with the avowed aim of imparting better education and more importantly to make profits. No doubt they have produced better result as compared to government managed or run schools. It is beyond the reach of many families. The quality of education provided by the state government managed/ aided schools has deteriorated in recent years. This is almost the same with higher education in the state as well. Our investigation reveals that a larger majority of the jobseekers (67.66 per cent) whom we interviewed are reported to have studied in state government or aided/managed schools, while another 77 of

them (25.66 per cent) studied in better managed private schools under the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BSEM) and the rest i.e. 20 (6.66 per cent) studied in central schools which are under Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Table 2.8 School Attended by the Respondents

School	Rural		Urban		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
State Govt. Schools	91	20	78	14	203(67.66%)
Central Govt. Schools	4	2	6	8	20(6.66%)
Private Schools	11	12	24	30	77(25.66)
Total	106	34	108	52	300

2.7 Occupation and Income of the Family

Manipur is predominantly an agrarian society. Agriculture and its allied activities are the mainstay of the state's economy. In this part we are concerned with the main occupation and income of the respondents' households. It is found that salaried job, which most of the educated prefer, is the main occupation to 126 (42 per cent) households, followed by agriculture in the case of 118 (39 per cent) families, whereas for 50 (17 per cent) families business is the main occupation, thus forming the main source of family income. An interesting feature of the data is that families with business as main occupation or main sources of income, has higher income than the families where salaried job or agriculture are the main occupations. Unfortunately, six respondents refused to specify the main occupation of their families.

Table 2.9 Main Occupation of the Household

Occupation	Rural		Urban		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Salaried Job	60	16	18	32	126 (42%)
Business	8	2	23	17	50 (17%)
Agriculture	36	16	63	3	118 (39%)
Not specified	2	-	4	-	6 (2%)

Table 2.10 Annual Family Income (Household Income Group)

Income (in Rs.)	Urban		Rural		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Less 40,000	14	2	28	6	50 (17%)
40,001- 60,000	22	4	30	7	63 (21%)
60,001- 80,000	23	6	20	9	58 (19%)
80,001-1,00,000	22	13	13	5	53 (18%)
Above 1,00,000	27	27	15	7	76 (25%)

Income is important for the individuals and the families from several angles. Firstly, income gives power to control utilities which, in turn, is a hallmark of social status. Secondly, it facilitates access to public and private services- educational, medical and recreational. Thirdly, the lifestyle is determined, to a large extent, by the income, which in turn, conditions the group one interacts with. Finally, income accumulates wealth and the way in which wealth is displayed, serves as an important aspect of status.¹. The relevant data regarding the household income of the respondents are presented in the above table. It is found that the annual income for

50 (17 per cent) families are less than Rs. 40,000, whereas for another 63 (21 per cent) families the annual income ranges between Rs.40,001- Rs.60,000. While the annual income in the case of another 58 (19 per cent) families are between Rs.60,001- Rs.80,000 and for another 53 (18 per cent) families the income range between Rs. 80,000 –Rs.1,00,000. Whereas the remaining 76 (25 percent) families has annual income above Rs. One Lakh.

2.8 Employment Status of the Families

If we look at the employment status of the respondents' families, the available data tells that 99 (33 per cent) families doesn't have even one permanently employed person in their household. Whereas, 94 (31 per cent) followed by 76 (25 per cent) families have just a single and two permanently employed persons in the household respectively. Seventeen (6 per cent) families has three permanently employed persons, whereas the remaining 14 (5 per cent) families has four or more employed persons.

Table 2.11 Number of Person Employed Permanently in the Family

No. of Person	Rural	Urban	Total
None	70	29	99 (33%)
One	40	54	94 (31%)
Two	16	60	76 (25%)
Three	1	16	17 (6%)
Four & more	3	11	14 (5%)

2.9 Size of the Family

Forty-four per cent families have 5 to 7 members in the household, followed by 8-10 members in the case of 42 per cent families. Further, 7 percent families have 11 or more members and likewise the rest i.e. 7 percent families have 2-4 persons in the whole household. It means that only two types of families (5 to 7 and 8 to 10) together account for 86 per cent. It is further demonstrate in the following table:

Table 2.12 Household Size of the Respondent's Families (in percent)

Household size	Rural	Urban	Total
2-4	4	3	7
5-7	22	22	44
8-10	19	23	42
11+	2	5	7

When asked them about the economic conditions of their families, it was found that many of them were reluctant to give in detail. However, we managed to get required information despite the difficulties that we had in the field. What we found during the fieldwork was that, the female respondents were more reluctant to tell their family's economic conditions. An analysis of the collected data reveals that 42 per cent unemployed consider their families economic condition as 'self-sufficient', followed by 36 per cent who consider 'low', another 20 per cent consider 'good' and the remaining 2 per cent consider 'very sound' or 'very good'. This is presented in the following table.

Table 2.13 Economic Condition of the Family

Perceived Economic Condition	Male	Female	Male + Female	% age
Very Good/ Sound	6	1	7	2.33
Good	37	23	60	20
Self-sufficient	84	41	125	41.66
Low	87	21	108	36
Total	214	86	300	

In this chapter, we examined the social background of the educated unemployed youth. In doing so the sample population is represented by more male unemployed than their female counterpart. This is because of the fact that more males are found registered in various employment exchanges located in the state. However, registration among the female has also picking up. Again, there are more unemployed who hail from urban areas than the rural counterparts. This is also because of the fact that registrations to the employment exchanges are more in urban areas than the rural areas. It is because, most of the employment exchanges are located in urban localities.

It is also found that vast majority of the unemployed are above 26 years old. Figures maintained by the employment exchanges in the state also shows that vast majority of the jobseekers are above 30 years old. This is very disappointing. And, an overwhelming majority of them are unmarried. This is because unemployment delays marriage of the unemployed. Coming to their religion affiliation vast majority of the jobseekers in the present study are *manipuri Hindus*. The sample includes

only whose educational qualifications are graduates and post graduates. As far the educational qualification of the jobseekers in the live register of the employment exchange is concerned 65 per cent jobseekers are matriculate and above. My interaction with them understand that the more a person has higher educational qualifications, the more they are frustrated because of prolonged unemployment. In this study there are more unemployed from the arts background that is followed by science and commerce respectively. Like wise, there are more jobseekers from the arts background in the data maintained by the employment exchanges. Parents' education is another factor that determines the education of their wards. Quite a larger number of parents are illiterate. Vast majority of the unemployed studied in the state government managed/aided schools knowing well that the performance of these schools are poor as compared to the private managed schools. Interestingly a largest proportion of their family occupation is found to be salaried job, this is closely followed by agriculture and subsequently business. A large number of families have one or more permanently employed persons. It is found that a majority of their families have more than five members.

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CHAPTER III

EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY & PROBLEMS RELATING TO MARRIAGE

PART I

Educated Unemployed Youth in the Family and Community

This section deals with the various aspects of the relationship that the educated unemployed youth has with the family in particular and the community in general. Every society has a family system. Family is a unique institution. It occupies a central place among the primary social institutions. It is a socially sanctioned group of persons united by kinship, marriage or adoption, which generally share a common habitat and interact according to well-defined social roles that maintain and protect its members and perpetuate the society. Family is the first group with which we come into extended contact with the outside world. It is an important institution for the proper functioning of other societal systems and institutions. It has control over the individual than any other social groups. Moreover, it is both an agency of socialization and social control. No doubt, it is essential for proper functioning of the society as a whole. A family comprises of unity of parents and offspring with several important characteristics:

- (i.) Family relationships are socially approved and positively sanctioned;
- (ii) Interaction within the family is defined by the norms of the greater society. Much of this interaction is associated with making a living, childbearing and rearing, and obtaining emotional security; and
- (iii) A family unit is relatively permanent and displays all characteristics of a primary social group¹. Regarding the importance of family Corfman writes:

“The family gives each newborn its nurturing environment, and as time passes, is each child’s primary socialising agent, shaping its capacity for personal relations, interpreting and mediating the vast and complex outside world. Beyond these recognised functions, the family exerts other powerful influences. It can provide us with a continuity of identity throughout our lives, a present network of relatedness, roots into the past and branches to the future. It is the platform for each member’s states of growth and the intimate arena for learning to recognise and adjust to these stages in others. It has an internal dynamic quality, its functions changing over time according to its members’ needs and enduring long after its members have dispersed. Externally, the family affects other people and institutions, both as the family unity collectively engages with the world and as its members sally forth, imprinted by the family ways”².

Human development can only be best enhanced by enriching family life. Problems such as unemployment is not just an individual problem but family problem as well. Unemployment affects the family in many ways. Unemployment affects the families of the educated unemployed economically, socially and psychologically. As an educated is supposed to contribute materially to the whole family, but when they fail in fulfilling the expectations of the family, they feel guilt, helplessness and loss of self-confidence. In due course of time, with guilty conscience they fail to adjust with the family norms, which further affects cordial relationship in the family. Studies have shown that a higher rate of trouble and conflict is found in the families of unemployed. Therefore, we can say that unemployment disturb the stability of the family. Keeping these in mind, this section

presents the educated unemployed youth relationship with the family and community at large.

The analyses of the collected data are given in the following ways. It is found that a vast majority of the unemployed i.e., 72.66 per cent are economically dependent to their parents or guardians, whereas the remaining 27.33 per cent are self-dependent or self-earning and hence, they are not dependent economically to their parents or guardians. It is obvious, then, that majority of the educated unemployed is economically dependent to their parents/guardians. A look at the income of those who claimed to be self-dependent shows an embarrassing situation, because their monthly income is very low, which ranges from Rs 500- Rs 1500. Many of them have been reported to be working part-time like teaching part time in private schools, colleges and other establishment/agencies, where they are paid a very nominal amount or even without remuneration. Some of them also take private tuition, but their income is not regular as well as insufficient. The meager income they get could hardly meet their daily expenses.

Table 3.1 Main Sources of Monthly Sustenance of the Respondents

Source of income	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Parents/Guardians	149	69	218	72.66
Self-earning	65	17	82	27.33

Financial difficulties faced by the educated unemployed can be understood from the statements given by some of them. Similar statement are also given by many youth such as:

"My main source of monthly sustenance at present is private tuition and earning around Rs. 1000 a month. Nowadays, it is very difficult to manage with Rs. 1000. I always try not to ask money from my parents. Sometimes I am compelled to asked from them." Another respondent recounted that:

"I am around thirty years old but without work. I always asked money from my parents and my brothers. Sometimes I felt uneasiness and shame to asked for money". A lot more replied in the same view like:

"Presently, I am working in private school with Rs 700 per month. It is impossible to manage with this amount. We cannot bargain also. Whatever they give, we have to take. Otherwise, I may be thrown out any time because my employers know that there are many educated youth in the market looking for job".

"Presently, I am a helpless educated unemployed. My main source of income at present is my parents".

Of course the family financially support the unemployed. However, many of them don't get the required amount as and when they asked. This is clearly illustrated by the data we have gathered. It is found that majority of the respondents i.e., 67.66 per cent doesn't get their monthly-required money, on the other hand, 32.33 per cent respondents get the required money.

**Table 3.2 Distribution of Respondents' Response to:
Do you get the required money?**

Response	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Yes	142	61	203	67.66
No	72	25	97	32.33

The data presented in Table 3.3 below indicates that a larger majority (61.66%) doesn't feel free to asked money from their parents/guardians every now and then, whereas, another 35.33 per cent have no hesitation to asked money from their parents whenever requirement comes up. On the other hand, the remaining 3 per cent respondents refuse to give comment to the question. It is therefore clear that majority of the unemployed youth faces financial difficulties in their every day life. The problem is even more to those who have been experiencing prolonged unemployment and those who had finished their formal studies long before. Their problem is also better presented in the following statements.

**Table 3.3 Distribution of Respondents' Response to:
Do you feel free to asked money from your parents/guardians?**

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Yes	24	11	45	26	106	35.33
No	76	23	61	25	185	61.66
No Response	6	-	2	1	9	3.00

"During my college and university days, I could freely ask any amount of money from my parents. Now it is not so as earlier. However, I always got enough money whenever I asked for. But I am uncomfortable to asked for the same".

"I am more than 30 years old. Presently, our father is the only earning member in the whole family. We in the family depend on him for everything. Sometimes I am ashamed to give more burdens to him. I always got enough money to meet my requirement. However, I don't feel free to ask money".

"I am helpless unemployed. For how long, I have to depend economically to my parents. However, what can I do. I am frustrated but no way".

"My parents are very supportive. I don't have financial difficulties because of my parents. However, how long I will depend on them? I always ask this question myself".

Most youth express views similar to the above.

**Table 3.4 Distribution of Respondents' Response to:
Do you think that you are a liability to your Parents?**

Response	Male	Female	Total	%age
Yes	134(62.61%)	46(53.48%)	180	60
No	80(37.38%)	40(46.51%)	120	40

Sixty per cent educated unemployed think that they are liability to their family /parents, whereas another 40 per cent doesn't think so. A close look of the data presented in the above Table further reveals that 62.61 per cent male as against 53.48 per cent female unemployed think that they are liability to their parents. Hence, it can be assume that the burden of unemployment is more among the male unemployed as compared to their female counterpart.

Some of the youth in our study commented that:

"I am the youngest son in the family. In our community, the youngest on is supposed to look after and live with the parents. Now our parents are getting older. However, I am still an unemployed and helpless. There is uncertainty about job, which my education has compelled me to take up. I am economically dependent to others. Therefore, I am very much a liability to my parents".

"I am very much a liability to my parents because now I am married and have one son but my parents are economically supporting me. What I will do without them. I am helpless"

"I am a real burden to my parents. Being the eldest son, I have many responsibilities on my head. But, I am nothing giving more and more burden to them".

Almost all the unemployed youth are living with their parents. With regard to interaction with the head of the family, it is found that 52.66 per cent (158) of them always interact with the family head. Further, the available data indicates that 47.19 per cent male as against 66.27 per cent female respondents always interact with the head of the family. While 34.66 per cent respondents occasionally interact. Whereas, 12.66 per cent of the educated unemployed rarely interact with the head of the family. More female unemployed as compared to male unemployed has more interactions with family head.

Table 3.5 Respondents' Interaction With Family Head (in percent)

Frequency of Interaction	Male	Female	Male+Female
Always	47.19	66.27	52.66
Sometimes	38.31	25.58	34.66
Rarely	14.48	8.13	12.66

Unemployment hinders the youth transition to an independent life problematic. Unemployed youth are less encouraged or less likely to listen by others in their day to day life, thus creating a sense of inferiority complex. Our data tells that 54 per cent sample unemployed say that they are always consulted in matters

concerning to their families, while another 37 per cent are sometimes consulted and the remaining 9.33 per cent are reported to be rarely consulted in matters concerning the family. Many of them have guilty feeling as they are not useful to the family.

Table 3.6 Consultation in Family Matters

Frequency of Consultation	Male	Female	Total
Always	118	43	161(53.66%)
Sometimes	76	35	111(37%)
Rarely	20	8	28(9.33%)

Table 3.7 Similarity of Opinion with the Family Head in Family and other Related Issues

Similarity of opinion	Male	Female	Total	%age
Very Similar	81	32	113	37.66
Somewhat Similar	70	41	111	37
Somewhat Different	51	13	64	21.33
Very Different	12	-	12	4

Table above shows the similarity or dissimilarity of sampled unemployed youth opinion with their family head in issues pertaining to their families. As the data indicates, a little more than 37 per cent sampled unemployed youth claim to have 'very similar' opinion, another 37 per cent has 'somewhat similar' opinion and 21.33 per cent 'somewhat different' opinion. However, the remaining 4 per cent have 'very different' opinion with the family head.

**Table 3.8 Distribution of Respondents' Response to:
How fairly people treat the educated unemployed youth?**

Response	Male	Female	Total	%age
Very fairly	12	10	22	7.33
Fairly	94	31	125	41.66
Not fairly	101	52	153	51

The table above clearly portrays the sampled unemployed youth response to the question, how fairly people treat the educated unemployed youth? It is seen that only 51 per cent unemployed youth feel that they are not fairly treated by the people. On the other hand, 41.66 per cent-others doesn't think so, however another 7.33 per cent are of think that they are treated 'very fairly' by the people in the surrounding community. It is sad to learn that half of them consider that the educated unemployed are not fairly treated in the society.

**Table 3.9 Distribution Respondents' Response to:
The status of educated unemployed is low in the community.**

Alternative Response	Male	Female	Total	%age
Strongly agree	39	14	53	17.66
Agree	88	47	135	45
Disagree	61	20	81	27
Strongly disagree	26	5	31	10.33

As far as their perception of themselves based on the query: 'the status of educated unemployed is low in the community', their reactions are varied. That is: strongly agree (17.66%), agree (45%), disagree (27%) and strongly disagree

(10.33%). Therefore, it is clear that a larger majority i.e. 62.66 per cent of the unemployed thinks that their status is low in the community/society, whereas 37.33 per cent don't think so. In this regard, I noted down what some of my respondents said at the time of the interview, and similar views are expressed by many of them:

“People in our locality always respect me while I was in university as there were a very few students from our locality who studied in university. They have very high expectations too. This year is fifth year I completed my post-graduation. However, I am jobless. I find that today people around me have not shown their respect as it was before”.

“Who will respect a person who is well educated but unemployed, who cannot stand of it own. I strongly agree that the status of the educated unemployed youth in the community is low”.

**Table 3.10 Distribution of Respondents' Response to;
Does unemployment affect your status at home as well as the status of your
family in the community?**

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Yes	79	17	76	28	200	66.66
No	27	17	32	24	100	33.33

Unemployment is a problem for the individual, family and society. At the family level, it creates many problems. Here, it is found that a larger majority i.e. 66.66 per cent of the sampled youth assume that unemployment undermines their status at home as well the status of their family in the community, but.33 per cent do not think so.

Societal Expectations towards the Educated Youth

Besides the 300 educated unemployed youth, another 50 prominent personalities (academicians, administrators, social workers and journalists), some parents of the respondents, and beside some others whom I interacted in the course of my visit to different offices in connection with the research were also contacted and interviewed. In doing so, I could enrich the present research and ascertain how they look at the educated unemployed Manipuri youth. They have many expectations from the educated youth. Many of them said that the present infrastructure in the state is not sufficient for employment generation, especially for the educated youth in the state. Their expectations are as follows:

(i) Educated youth should not look for state government jobs only. They should be encouraged to look for central government jobs. In addition, they should be more mobile.

(ii) Expect the educated to take up agricultural work, instead of looking for white-collar job only.

(iii) Expect them to take up self-employment ventures, so as to be a job provider rather than jobseekers.

(iv) Youth especially the educated ones should involve in suggesting remedial measures to solve various societal issues and problems facing the state and to contribute positively towards the development.

**Table 3.11 Distribution of respondents' response to:
In the near future, do you think that you can fulfill the expectations of your
parents/ guardians?**

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Yes	40	9	51	19	119	39.67
No	11	5	-	2	18	6.00
Can't say	55	20	57	31	163	54.33

The available data shows that only 39.66 per cent of the sample youth are confident of fulfilling the expectations of their parents or guardians in the near future and another 6 per cent of them have no hope of fulfilling the parental expectations. Unfortunately, majority of them i.e. 54.33 per cent neither says 'yes' nor 'no' but 'cannot say'. Therefore, it is clear that majority of the educated unemployed youth are doubtful of fulfilling their parents or guardians expectations in the near future.

**Table 3.12 Distribution of Respondents' link or association with Political/
Welfare/ Sports Organisations.**

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Political	28	2	12	5	47	17.67
Welfare	54	11	50	12	127	47.74
Sports	54	3	35	3	92	34.59

Only 17.67 per cent of the youth in this study are found associated with political organizations like political parties or their student wings. However, we have no evidence of their active involvement. Quite a large number of them are also has concern for various welfare activities in their localities. 34.59 per cent of them are also associated with sports organizations in their localities.

Data in Table 3.13 shows that a vast majority (71.66%) of the educated unemployed interact mainly with unemployed friends who share more or less similar feelings and sufferings; surprisingly another 21.66 per cent interact mainly with employed ones and another 6.00 per cent interact both with the employed and unemployed friends. However, 0.66 per cent have no friends, as data indicates.

Table 3.13 Distribution of respondents' interaction with friends
With whom do you interact most?

Interaction with friends	Male	Female	Total	%age
Employed friends	50	15	65	21.66
Unemployed friends	152	63	215	71.66
Both (employed & unemployed friends)	12	6	18	6.00
No friends	-	2	2	0.66

Our interactions with these youth understand that vast majority of their friends are unemployed. Since they are unemployed, they are more adjustable/comfortable to interact with those who have the similar plight or problems or feelings. We understand that they have adjustment problems with their employed friends. Some respondents remarked:

"I am comfortable with my unemployed friends because our employed friends have little time to meet and interact one another. Moreover, we have different ideas and ideology. However, we the unemployed have similar problems and issues that is not so with the employed ones".

"I interact mainly with unemployed friends, because most of my friends are unemployed. Our employed friends are busy with their own work and they don't have time to meet us as before. We also couldn't adjust one another as before. Now their way of life and ours are totally different". Similar views are given by most of the youth in our study".

Similar views are expressed by many of the unemployed, we have approached.

Table 3.14 Frequency of Interaction with Friends (N=298)

Interaction	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Regularly (almost everyday)	122	18	140	46.97
Occasionally	92	66	158	53.02

Note: Two female respondents have no friends.

The available data shows that 46.97 per cent i.e.140 respondents regularly (or almost everyday) interact with their friends. On the other hand, the other 53.02 per cent i.e. 158 respondents occasionally interact with friends. An overview of the data in Table 3.15 shows the unemployed youth level of involvement /participation/ interest in various activities. Here, we see that 41.58 per cent males as against 17.44 per cent females moderately involved in roaming as well gossiping, and while another 41.58 percent males as against 65.11 per cent females have less interest. Moreover, 12.14 per cent males and 9.30 per cent females spend more time in roaming and gossiping, and it is only 4.67 percent males as against 8.13 per cent females that doesn't involve in roaming and gossiping in their day today life. As the data indicates a larger majority of the youth moderately listens to radio or watch TV.

11.68 per cent males as against 3.48 per cent females very regularly watch movies in cinema theatre, while 29.43 per cent males as against 23.25 per cent females occasionally watch, another 51.86 per cent males and 52.32 per cent females rarely watch movies and the rest that is 7 per cent males as against 20.09 per cent females never go for movies.

Table 3.15 Distribution of Respondents' Involvement /Interest /Participation of the following items; (in percent)

Items	Full Involvement		Moderate Involvement		Rare Involvement		No at all	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Roaming & Gossiping	12.14	9.30	41.58	17.44	41.58	65.11	4.67	8.13
Listening to radio/ watching TV	11.21	15.11	67.75	69.75	21.03	13.95	-	1.16
Going to movies	11.68	3.48	29.43	23.25	51.86	52.32	7	20.09
Reading newspapers	42.05	20.93	45.79	34.88	12.14	22.09	-	22.09
Participation in games and sports	-	-	26.63	11.62	17.75	29.06	55.60	59.30
Participation in social activities	20.56	23.25	57.47	40.69	15.42	27.90	6.54	8.13
Involvement in households work	22.89	53.48	58.87	42.36	18.22	4.66	-	-

Note: M stands for Male & F stands for Female

42.05 per cent males as against 20.93 per cent females regularly and intensively read newspaper mainly for competitive examinations; whereas 45.79 per cent males as against 34.88 per cent females regularly read newspaper so as to keep them aware of day today happenings. Whereas, 12.14 per cent males and 22.09 per

cent females rarely read newspapers. Yet, another 22.09 per cent females never read. Further, the data indicates 26.63 per cent males as against 11.62 per cent females are moderately involved in games and sports, however 55.60 per cent males as against 59.30 per cent females do not play at all.

Regarding their participation in social activities 20.56 per cent males as against 23.25 per cent females actively participate in such activities; while 57.47 per cent males as against 40.69 percent females are moderately involved; and another 15.42 per cent males as against 27.90 per cent females are rarely involved and the rest that is 6.54 per cent males and 8.13 percent females never involve in such activities. It is again seen that more female youth than male youth are involved in household works. Here, only 22.89 per cent males as against 53.48 per cent females are fully involved in household works, another 58.87 per cent males as against 42.36 per cent females are moderately involved. Whereas, 18.22 per cent males as against 4.66 per cent females are rarely involved in household works.

**Table 3.16 Distribution of Respondents' Response to:
Do you drink alcohol?**

Response	Male	female	Total
Yes	118	2	120(40%)
No	96	84	180(60%)
Total	214	86	300(100%)

**Table 3.17 Distribution of Respondents' (N=120) Response to:
Is drinking of alcohol related with your unemployment?**

Response	Male	Female	Total
Yes	31	-	31(25.83%)
No	87	2	89(74.16%)
Total	118	2	120

Many studies on youth unemployment shows that unemployment increases the risk of alcoholism and drug abuse. With this in mind our study also tries to find the linkage. Our data reveal that that 40 per cent (120) unemployed youth in the present study use to drink alcohol and the rest i.e. 60 per cent (180) never drink alcohol. Further 74.16 per cent of the 120 youth say that their alcohol drinking is not at all related with their unemployment, whereas to the other 25.83 per cent it is related with their unemployment status. Here, one respondent commented:

"I do agree that unemployment results to increase consumption of alcohol to many unemployed people. In my case unemployment to some extend force me to take alcohol very often. Whenever, we go for evening walk we use to drink just to relax. If we are employed or busy with something, we may not drink alcohol as it is today".

Part II

Educated Unemployed Youth and the Institution of marriage

Marriage is a universal institution. Every individual has to play a number of roles in life. Of all the roles one plays, marital or family role is indispensable to society and self. The marital role involves about forty to fifty years of one's life. It gives a sense of emotional security. In all societies marriage is social necessity and an essential institution of every society. Marriage is a relatively stable relationship between a man and a woman, including social norms specifying the conditions for having children. The essential point is the principle of legitimacy that establishes a socially approved link between the mother, father and children. Burgess and Locke have defined marriage as "a socially sanctioned union of one or more men with one or more women in the relationship of husband and wife"³. The main objectives of traditional Hindu marriage are Dharma (righteousness or the performance of duty), praja (progeny), and rati (pleasure). Of these, dharma is given more importance, followed by procreation and sex gratification.

There are several forms of marriage. Different societies have different types of marriage based on number. Monogamy, which is the most common and preferred form, involves the union of one man and one woman. Whereas, a polygamous marriage involves at-least two persons of one sex and one of the other. The most popular type of polygamy is polygyny, a marriage arrangement that involves one man and two or more women. The second type of polygamous marriage is polyandry, the marriage of one woman to two or more men, which is very rare. The

third type of polygamy is group marriage that involves two or more men marrying two or more women. This type of marriage is even rarer than polyandry.

The approved way to select a marriage partner (or partners) varies among cultures. Generally, all societies display endogamous and exogamous practices. Endogamy requires that mates be selected from within groups and is commonly expressed by race, ethnic, religion, or social class preferences. Exogamy refers to prohibitions against seeking a mate within certain groups. People must marry outside their kin group, be it their immediate nuclear family, clan, or tribe. Incest taboos are the broadest and most universal form of exogamous taboos, requiring sexual intercourse and marriage to occur outside the nuclear family or with close blood relations.

At a different level from the endogamous and exogamous restrictions, most societies also socialise their members to select mates with personal characteristics similar to their own, a process called homogamy. The homogamy concept of mate selection indicates that a person is attracted to and become involved with those who are similar to their age, physical appearance, education, social class, marital status and religion.

In Manipur as is elsewhere, marriage is considered as a lifelong partnership. It is the rock on which the family is build, and which in turn, is the foundation of society. Marriage is a social and legal contract. However, under the influence of western countries, modern education and industrialization, the young people appear to be seeking greater freedom and independence to express themselves and to make their own decisions. Consequently, love marriage is becoming very popular. A love

marriage is characterised by an absence of, or a negligible role of parents in the choice of the partner, the choice being made by the two persons getting married and with considerable interaction between them prior to marriage. Arranged marriage is least prefer today Arranged marriage can be defined as one in which the marriage partner is selected by the individuals parents, either with or without his or her consent and with little or no interaction between the would be-partner prior to marriage. This section analyses the relationship of unemployed youth and the institution of marriage, and their problems relating to marriage. Nonetheless, in Manipur among the majority Manipuri Hindu community: exogamy, polygamy and arranged marriage is still the norm.

Table 3.18 Unemployed Youth' Attitudes towards the Essentiality of the Institution of Marriage

Alternative Response	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Essential	188	78	266	88.66
Not Essential	26	8	34	11.33

Unemployment affects the individual life of the unemployed. Because of unemployment, many youth couldn't take essential roles that they are supposed to perform. In such situation, in the present study an attempt is made to assess their attitudes towards the importance of marriage to them. Here, the available data indicates that an overwhelming majority (88.66%) of the unemployed youth considers marriage to be very essential for them, even if they are unemployed. Unfortunately, the remaining 32 (11.33%) consider it 'not essential' for them if they are to remain unemployed or without any income. The dilemmas face by most

educated unemployed youth regarding marriage can be understood by going through what some of them have responded:

“Marriage is essential so as to share and experience life with opposite individuals helping each other with understanding. Life has a true meaning in marriage only. But, for me without a permanent income or job, I have not plan to marry at all”.

“If one is unable to properly support (economically and socially) a family, it is advisable to remain single. One shouldn't marry just for the sake of it”.

“Marriage is essential. However, because of unemployment I have never thought of it. Now, I am not in a position to marry. I will think of it only when I get a job”.

Table 3.19 Distribution of Respondents' Views on the Best Time to Marry

<u>For Male</u> Best Time	Rural		Urban		Total	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
20 years & below	-	-	-	-	-	-
21-25	8	1	16	2	27	9
26-30	81	30	73	31	215	72
30+	17	3	19	19	58	19

<u>For Females</u> Best Time	Rural		Urban		Total	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
20 years & below	5	-	-	1	6	2
21-25	62	22	44	12	140	47
26-30	3	12	64	39	154	51
30+	-	-	-	-	-	-

Regarding the timing of marriage, it is found that none of them want males to marry if below 20 years and females if above 30 years. However, seventy two per cent of them consider the age between 26-30 years as the right time to get married for males and in the case of females, the same age group is considered ideal by 51 per cent respondents. On the other hand, 47 per cent respondents consider the age between 21-25 years as the best time to get married for females and only 9 per cent in the case of males. The data further reveals that 19 per cent respondents consider the age 30+ as the best time to marry for males. Now an overview of the data indicates that they prefer the females to marry at a younger age than males.

**Table 3.20 Unmarried Respondents' (N=283) Response to:
Do you expect to get married?**

Response	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Yes	140	59	199	70.31
No	47	25	72	25.44
No Response	12	-	12	4.24

Of the three hundred educated unemployed selected for the present study, seventeen of them are found married. As the unmarried respondents' response to the question, do you expect to get married? 70.31 per cent out of 283-unmarried unemployed are hopeful of getting married before it is too late. Nevertheless, unemployment compels them to delay. On the other hand, another 25.44 per cent are not planning to get married. While another 4.24 per cent refuse to give any comment.

Failure to get jobs compelled many unemployed youth to delay their marriage. This issue is being raised to those unmarried unemployed in the study. To 67 per cent, unemployment is the biggest hurdle when they think about their marriage, but in the case of the remaining 33 per cent it is not so. Therefore, it can rightly say that unemployment delays marriage, even if the individuals desire to do so. We noted down what some respondents said at the time of the interview.

"Now I want to marry and settle down. However, how I will marry, as I don't have any regular income. Therefore, I have to think and look for job. The moment I get job I will think of marriage".

"I don't want to give burden to others. So, I never think of marriage at present. I will marry only when I am in a position to support my family. If I marry now, I will give extra burden to my parents, besides my wife and children will be worst hit. Besides we have to think for our children's education and other requirements which solely depends on money". Similar views are expressed by most of the youth in our study. On the other side some youth expressed views similar to the one given below.

"Marriage for me is not related with unemployment. If I want, I will marry".

It is also come to light that those married but unemployed faces various problems in their day today life. They have financial problems, and continue to be supported by their parents. Despite their financial difficulties, some of them are happy in their married life, whereas some are not so. Family compulsion as well love one another are found to be the main reasons behind their marriage even without having a job. Some of them are very much worried for their wives and

children, as they still depend on their parents or guardians, when they are expected to financially support their own families.

**Table 3.21 Educated Unemployed Youth Preferences of the two statements:
(i) Marriage after getting job.
(ii) Marriage even before getting job.**

Statement	Male	Female	Male+Female
Marriage after getting Job	149 (69.62)	55 (63.95)	204 (68)
Marriage even before getting job	65 (30.37)	31 (36.04)	96 (32)

As expected, a vast majority of the unemployed youth (68%) prefer to marry after getting a job, because after marriage one is expected to start own independent life with varied responsibilities. However, the remaining 32 per cent unemployed prefer to get married even without having a job. Further look at the data above shows that relatively larger percentage of the unemployed i.e. 69.62 per cent male respondents as against 63.95 per cent female, want to marry after getting a job. On the other hand, 36.04 per cent female as against 30.37 per cent male unemployed prefer marriage even without a job also. Some jobseekers are of the view that the practical difficulties to getting a job compel them to consider marriage even without job or regular income. Their problems can be better understood from the statements given below:

"If marriage is performed after getting job, one can face the financial problems as well as the material world".

"If I marry after having a job, my life will be more comfortable and meaningful".

"I prefer the statement, "marriage after getting job" because, I don't want to become an unqualified husband, and don't want to spoil the career of my children".

"If I am employed, I will not depend on my husband in financial matters. I prefer not to depend economically to anyone".

"We need to marry in time whether we get a job or not. We have to think for our age and the age of the parents. Now, I am thirty-five years old and my parents are getting older. My age and my parents are more important to job. So I prefer to marry now, so that my parents could see my wife and children".

What we understand is that most unemployed youth like to marry after they have a job that can at least support them financially. Nevertheless, the practical difficulties in getting job even compel many unemployed youth to marry even without having sufficient income at their disposal.

On the marriage pattern, it is found that a vast majority of the unemployed youth prefers self-choice or love marriage. The available data tells that 65.66 per cent of them prefer self-choice or love marriage with 'parents' approval, while another 20.66 per cent prefer self-choice or love marriage even without parents' approval. Only 13.66 per cent prefer arranged marriage. Today's youth want more freedom in the selection of their marriage partners. This is also being expressed by large majority of the unemployed youth we have interviewed. Some of the youth in our study stated:

"I prefer self-choice or love marriage with parents' approval. In marriage, parents' approval is very must and we have to follow what they wanted us to do. This will bring a peaceful and happy family life".

“I prefer self-choice or love marriage because it a prerequisite to know the person whom I am going to get married because I have to live with him my whole life. Moreover, Parents’ approval is must. We should convince about the person whom we love”.

“Parents approval is also required. However, in unavoidable circumstances, we are forced to go against their wishes, because I am mature enough to decide our future course of action and my partner has to live with me only. What we need is mutual understanding and respect. Therefore, unnecessary interference of the parents or guardians does not arise”.

Table 3.22 Marriage Pattern Prefer by the Educated Unemployed Youth

Marriage Patterns	Male	Female	Male+Female	%age
Arranged Marriage	27	14	41	13.66
Self-Choice Or Love marriage with parent’s approval	131	66	197	65.66
Self-choice or Love marriage without parent’s approval	56	6	62	20.66

Quite interestingly, our data shows that more female unemployed that is 84.88 per cent as against 35.51 per cent male prefer to marry an employed one. Therefore, it is evident that more females as compared to males will like to have employed partner. Ironically, 58.13 per cent female unemployed prefer not to consider an unemployed man as their ideal life partner.

**Table 3.23 Factors Considered Important in the Selection of Marriage Partner
(in percent)**

Factors	Very important		Somewhat important		Not important at all	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Employed one	35.51	84.88	49.06	15.11	15.42	-
Unemployed one	27.57	1.46	53.27	40.69	19.15	58.13
High economic background	14.48	6.97	52.33	83.72	33.17	9.30
Physical beauty	35.98	20.93	50	65.11	14.01	13.95

To around 84 per cent female unemployed as compared to only 53 per cent of their male counterpart, high economic status of the family is “somewhat important” in the selection of their marriage partner, another 14.48 per cent male and 6.97 per cent female consider “very important”, and the remaining 33.17 per cent male and 9.30 per cent female consider “not important”. Again, more female unemployed youth prefer to marry those who belonged to high economic background. On the other, physical beauty is somewhat important to 50 per cent male as against 65.11 per cent female unemployed. While another 35.98 per cent male as against 20.93 per cent female consider physical beauty “very important”. But, the 14.01 per cent male and 13.95 per cent female unemployed do not give importance to physical beauty in the selection of their marriage partner. Therefore, an almost equal number of male as well female unemployed prefer physical beauty in the selection of marriage partners.

Around 70 per cent (that is 70.85% male and 67.85% female) youth in the study are confident of getting a life partner of their choices, but another 20.84 per

cent (that is 18.59% male and 26.19 % female) of them are doubtful. Whereas, the remaining 9.18 per cent refuses to comment. It is therefore right to say that majority of these youth are hopeful of finding a life partner of their liking.

**Table 3.24 Distribution of Unmarried Respondents (N=283) response to:
Do you hope to find a life partner of your choice?**

Alternative ticked marked	Male	Female	Male+Female
Yes	141(70.85)	57(67.85%)	198(69.96%)
No	37(18.59%)	22(26.19%)	59(20.84%)
No response	21(10.55%)	5(5.95)	26(9.18%)
Total	199	84	283

**Table 3.25 Distribution of Unmarried Respondents (N=283) Response to:
Is selection of marriage partner dependent upon your employment /unemployment status?**

Alternative ticked mark	Male	Female	Male+Female	Percentage
Yes	93(46.73%)	32(38.07%)	125	44.16
No	88(44.22%)	51(60.71%)	139	49.11
No response	18(9.04%)	1(1.19%)	19	6.71
Total	199	84	283	99.98

We find that 44.16 per cent unemployed youth (46.73% male and 38.07% female) believe that one's employment /unemployment status matter very much in the selection of marriage partner. What they think is that if a person is employed, their chances of getting a partner of their choice are very high. On the other hand, 49.11 per cent unemployed (44.22% male and 60.71% female) never consider that

employment or unemployment is not a major factor in the selection of their marriage partner. However, another 6.91 per cent refuse to comment.

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CHAPTER IV

ASPIRATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE EDUCATED YOUTH, ATTITUDES TOWARDS SOCIETAL AGENCIES, SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

PART I

Employment Aspirations and Expectations

Educated youth has more exposure to the different facets of the modern life. They have dreams of becoming responsible persons and lead meaningful lives. They have spent years in getting formal education with the hope of getting better employment once they complete their education. However, there is a wide gap between what they expect and what they get in reality. This is what the contemporary Manipuri youth actually faces. This section analyses the employment aspirations and expectations of the educated unemployed youth.

Table 4.1 Distribution of Respondents' Choices of Job

Choices of job	Rural		Urban		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Teaching	30	24	25	32	111(37%)
Administration	46	2	52	14	114(38%)
Police/Security Forces	17	1	21	1	40(13.33%)
Clerical Job	7	4	6	2	19(6.33%)
Not Decided	6	3	4	3	16(5.33%)

It is revealed that the largest percentage of the educated i.e. 38 want to be in administration, which is closely followed by another 37 per cent who want to take up teaching profession. The third largest i.e.13.33 per cent prefer to join the armed forces, and whereas another 6.33 per cent want to take up clerical job. However, the remaining, 5.33 per cent are undecided about the job. Hence, more unemployed are inclined towards administration and teaching.

In this study, we have grouped their waiting period for job into five categories: (1) one year, (2) two years, (3) three years, (4) four years and (5) five years or more. Table given below shows the distribution of unemployed according to their waiting periods. It reveals that 43 per cent of unemployed youth are unemployed for the past five years or more, another 32.66 per cent are unemployed for four years. Therefore, it is seen that majority of the educated youth (75.66%) have been looking or available for work for four years and more. Again, another 16.66 per cent have been waiting for the past 3 years, for 5 per cent it is 2 years and only 2.66 per cent educated have been waiting for one year. From the above analysis, it is clear that the vast number of educated youth have been experiencing long term unemployment.

Table 4.2 Duration of Time Waiting for Job

Waiting Period (in Years)	Male	Female	Total	%age
One	6	2	8	2.66
Two	11	4	15	5
Three	38	12	50	16.66
Four	65	33	98	32.66
Five and above	94	35	129	43

As they have been looking for jobs for a long time, it is therefore expected of them to have responded to a number of job advertisements. The data we have presented here clearly indicates the number of jobs they have applied. As the data indicates, an overwhelming majority of them has applied for one or more jobs, the breakup being, one job (12.66%), two jobs (22.66%), three jobs (17.33%), four jobs (15.83%), and five jobs or more (18%). Whereas, 14 per cent among them have not applied for any job, until the time of the interview.

It is also learnt that 51 per cent of the unemployed came to know about the vacant job positions through advertisement, whereas in the case of another 45 per cent educated is from “friends” or “relatives”. To only 4 per cent educated their source of information is “employment exchange”. We may therefore conclude that advertisement in newspapers or magazines, followed by personal contact are the best sources of getting information about employment.

Table 4.3 Numbers of Job Applied

Number of post applied	Male	Female	Total
One	25	13	38 (12.66%)
Two	47	21	68 (22.66%)
Three	35	17	52 (17.33%)
Four	36	10	46 (15.83%)
Five+	47	7	54 (18%)
None	25	17	42 (14%)

In a mixed economy like India, the public and as well as private sectors co-exist. In Manipur the state government employment is still considered as the most significant source of gainful employment. The industrial sector never emerges as the viable source of employment. Here the collected data indicates that a vast majority of the educated unemployed (80%) prefer to work in government sector, whereas only 7.33 per cent and 12.66 per cent will like to work in private sector and in self employment respectively. Thus, in Manipur a vast majority of the educated youth opt for government jobs. This is mainly because of the fact that there is no other alternative available to them except the government jobs. A close glance at the table further reveals that 83.01 per cent rural male youth as against 67.59 per cent urban male youth prefer government jobs. Whereas, 88.23 per cent rural female as against 94.23 per cent urban female prefer government jobs. It may therefore be concluded that the number of educated unemployed who prefer private sector employment and self employment are negligible as compared to the number of educated who prefer governmental jobs.

Table 4.4 Nature of Job Prefer by the Sampled Educated Unemployed

Job Prefer	Rural		Urban		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Government Job	88 (83.01)	30(88.23)	73 (67.59)	49(94.23)	240(80%)
Private Sector Job	7(6.6)	1(2.94)	14 (12.96)	-	22(7.33%)
Self-Employment	11(10.37)	3(8.82)	21(19.44)	3(5.76)	38(12.66%)
Total	106	34	108	52	300

Note: Figures in brackets indicates percentage

Self-employment is the only alternative that the state of Manipur can expect to control rampant unemployment especially among the educated youth. However, it appears that the educated youth populations are not ready for self-employment. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to change the mindset of the youth force that continues to give more importance to the state government employment. It is advisable for the youth force to keep in mind that the state of Manipur has the potential for employment generations in other areas rather than the state government employment.

Table 4.5 Respondents' Preferences for the Central and State Governments Jobs

Sectors	Male	Female	Total
Central Government Job	90	33	123(41%)
State Government Job	109	53	162(54%)
Both	11	-	11(3.66%)
None	4	-	4(1.33%)

The table given above clearly indicates the sampled unemployed youth preferences for the central and state government jobs. The data shows that more than half of the educated youth (54%) prefer state government jobs, whereas another 41 per cent educated prefer central government jobs. In addition, a small section of the educated i.e.3.6 per cent prefer both, it shows that they have no particular liking. On the other hand, 1.33 per cent respondents don't respond. It may therefore be conclude that, as expected more Manipuri youth prefer state government

employment rather than the central governments employment. The following statements clearly indicates their views.

“I prefer central government job because to get state government jobs one has to pay huge amount of money. This is not so in the central government jobs”.

“I prefer state job because I can devote full attention to my own state”.

“Being a woman, we are responsible for family affairs. Therefore, for us state jobs suit us more than the central government jobs”.

“I prefer central government job because, there is relatively fair process of recruitment, better pay packages and promotion”.

“I want state government job because, I don't want to go out of the state”.

As many as 82 per cent educated unemployed in this study reported that they have not been to other place or places (except within Manipur) in search of employment. Hence, our data tells that only 18 per cent educated jobseekers claim to have been to other place or places like Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in search of job. It has also been observed in the course of the interview that the majority of the educated unemployed has keenness to remain and get employed in their own state. It is mainly those with science background who have been to other places in their effort to find jobs. The question is being raised to them as the Manipuris love to remain in the state.

Table 4.6 Distribution of Respondents' Visit to Other Place(s) in search of Jobs

Response	Male	Female	Total
Yes	50	4	54(18%)
No	164	82	246(82%)

Table 4.7 Respondents' Opinion Regarding the Place where they want to Work

Place	Male	Female	Total
Within Manipur	115	54	169(56.33%)
Within N.E. India	11	9	20(6.66%)
Anywhere in India	78	19	97(32.33%)
Outside India	10	4	14(4.66%)

As Manipur has been in turmoil, the educational atmosphere is frequently disturbed. Hence, a large number of Manipuris studied in educational institutions outside the state. Unfortunately, most of them come back once they complete their studies. However, it is advisable to them to be mobile and look for employment opportunities elsewhere rather than confining in Manipur, as the state is not in a position to provide jobs to the fast growing educated mass. Our data tells that, more than half of the unemployed (56.33%) are interested to work within Manipur, positively 32.33 per cent have no problem working anywhere in India. Whereas, 6.66 per cent prefer to work within northeast India and the remaining 4.66 per cent would like to work outside India.

Table 4.8 Distribution of Respondents' Response to: Do you still hope to get a suitable job of your choice?

Response	Male	Female	Total
Yes	101	45	146(48.66%)
No	17	9	26(8.66%)
Can't say	96	32	128(42.66%)

As discussed earlier most of the unemployed have been experiencing long term unemployment and also responded to a number of job advertisements. It is therefore worthwhile to know whether they are still hopeful of getting a suitable job. It is found that an almost half of the sampled youth (48.66%) are hopeful of getting the job of their choices, as against this 8.66 per cent are reported to be doubtful. While relatively larger percentage of the unemployed i.e. 42.66 say neither 'yes' nor 'no' when this question was raised to them. Therefore, it may be rightly concluded that confusion prevailed among many of the educated unemployed in their efforts to get employed

Table 4.9 Distribution of Respondents' Reaction to: Would you accept any job offered by the Government?

Reaction	Male	Female	Total
Yes	115	43	158(52.66%)
No	98	42	140(46.66%)
Can't Say	1	1	2(0.66%)

As stated earlier educated unemployment is rampant in Manipur. Many of the educated have started looking for jobs much below what their educational qualifications expect them to take up. It is also reported that many of the rickshaw pullers in the state capital Imphal are graduates and post-graduates degree holders. In such a dismal situation more than half of the sampled educated (52.66%) are willing to take up any kind of job, whether big or small if offer to them. However, 46.66 per cent others are reluctant to accept, if it is beyond their expectations

because they want job as per their education. Interestingly, 0.66 per cent prefer not to comment.

Table 4.10 Respondents' Years of the Completion of Studies

Year	Male	Female	Total
Before 1990	6	-	6(2%)
1990-1992	35	4	39(13%)
1993-1995	99	51	150(50%)
1996-1998	58	26	84(28%)
Still Continuing	16	5	21(7%)

It is seen from the above table that the largest percentage of the sampled youth i.e., (50%) have completed their studies between 1993-1995, the second largest i.e., (28%) between 1996-1998, the third largest i.e., (13%) between 1990-1992 and another 2 per cent of them have completed before 1990. Interestingly, the remaining 21 (7%) respondents are pursuing some courses, though they have already completed their main studies and looking for jobs. One educated youth in our study stated: *"I have already done post-graduate in 1992, but I couldn't still get any job. Therefore, just for time past I am doing one course. Whenever, I get a job, I will discontinue my present study. Actually, I am undergoing this course just to keep me engaged in some work otherwise I feel so bored and isolated, just sitting at home and going here and there. Now, at least I get new friends and can relax"*.

Youth Assessment of Employment Programmes

Unemployment results in low purchasing power, less demands for goods as well services, that further reduces their production thereby leading to low investment and low economic development. The government of India has given priority in

various Five Years Plans to the problem of unemployment and its solution. There are various employment programmes in the country, which aimed at employment generations. We may group these programmes into two; of which some programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) deal with employment generation for all people in general, which naturally includes youth; and on the other hand there are programmes like Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY): especially meant for youth so as to tackle youth unemployment in the country. Sometimes, a few of the government schemes fail due to the lack of awareness on the part of the persons for whom these have been launched. Keeping this in mind the present study analyses the awareness of the programmes among the educated unemployed. Their responses are summed up in the following table:

Table 4.11 Distribution of Respondents' Awareness of the Employment Related Programme and Policies

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Aware	76	16	74	20	186	62
Not Aware	32	18	32	32	114	38
Total	108	34	106	52	300	100

Available data shows that a larger majority of the unemployed youth (62%) are aware of the government programmes meant to tackle unemployment,

surprisingly the remaining 38 per cent are not aware of such programmes. Though a large majority of the unemployed are aware, none of them are availing the facilities. Many of them said that they have to bribe the higher officials or politicians to get the benefit under such programmes. It is however observed that most of the unemployed we approached have keen interest for regular white collar jobs only. Very few have interest in such programmes. It is however expect that, in due course of time more unemployed will look for such facilities as employment situations has further worsened. The feeling of the educated youth can be best understood from the statements give by some the youth:

“Due to corrupt implementation of those programmes, these programmes don't facilitate to those people who stand against bribery and corruption”.

“I am fully aware of such programmes. But so far I have not applied for any of the programmes mainly because I am not interested and also a lot of malpractice's are involved in the implementation of these programmes”.

“People like us will not get these facilities because only rich and powerful could only enjoy in the name of poor and unemployed youth”.

“These days in Manipur to get a job or such facilities are like auction. Those who pay more money will get. However, we couldn't afford”.

“I am aware of such programmes but I am not trying so far. I may try if I fail to get a suitable job”.

It is now understand that majority of the educated youth believe that many malpractices are involved in the implementation of such programmes especially the selection of the beneficiaries. They strongly believed that until and unless they bribe

the officials concerned and have the political backing, there is always futility in trying for such facilities.

Prolonged unemployment has further compounded their worries. They have realised the futility of the degrees they have earned. In this regard the following question was asked to them.

Table 4.12 Distribution of Respondents' Response to: Do you think that your life will end up in doing something different from what you have been trained?

Response	Rural		Urban		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Yes	41	13	39	12	105	35
No	20	5	35	14	74	24.66
No response	45	16	34	26	121	40.33

The available data in the above table indicates that 35 per cent of the unemployed youth believes that their life will end in doing something different from what they have been trained. Whereas another 24.66 per cent are hopeful of getting a job as par their education. While, the remaining 40.33 per cent doesn't respond to the query. I noted down what some of them said at the time of the interview:

"I have been trying for job for almost seven years since the completion of my studies. So far, I couldn't get and I have lost my power and energy. I am helpless and isolated. Now, I realize that my life will end up in a job different from what my education expect me to do".

"I am still hopeful of getting a job in accordance with my education".

"I am in dilemma. I may or may not; get job of my choice is unpredictable".

PART II

Attitudes towards the Functioning of Vital Societal Agencies

The general perception these days in Manipur is that education system has failed, as it is evident from the widespread unemployment among the educated youth. Added to that political parties have failed to provide political stability in the state and the politicians are viewed as 'corrupt'. Common people are fed up with their style of functioning. On the other hand, the bureaucracy and the judicial system too fail to provide an alternative approach to the stability in the political system. Moreover, the guardians of law and order are viewed as inefficient and corrupt. In addition, the security forces are condemned as well, as they are supposed to have committed excesses in combating insurgency in the State. Here the researcher took the opportunity to quote a local newspaper editorial on rampant corruption in Manipur:

"Manipur has a long list of scandals in which names of top ranking officials and ministers figures prominently. This should not be surprising given the fact that corruption has become an institution in Manipur, one of the most backward states in the country. Institution as they say, never dies only individuals die. The height of corruption has reached such an alarming level that becoming a member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly has become a lucrative business. It is because of this fact that some of the Chief Ministerial candidates in the last few elections had spent lakhs of money if not crores. Horse-trading is an open business, if one wishes to occupy the top post his pure should be bottomless. Given such a scenario one should

not expect the authorities to bring unscrupulous and corrupt elements to book. The lottery scandal which involves waiving of outstanding dues to agents by those in power in return of a huge payback could be regarded as an institution. Several years after the scandal came to light many governments have changed and Ministers came and went, but the case still runs and one should not expect that those guilty persons will ever be caught and punished. Another sensational case is the Rs. two crore ex-gratia scandal. It involves fraudulent withdrawal of ex-gratia for people, who have never existed and militants killed by the security forces. What is more the case of burning of the State Education Directorate was found to have been turned into an ex-gratia case. After a hue and cry during the then Nipamacha Ministry, one doctor and one police officer had been promptly placed under suspension. As expected both the officials have now been reinstated. Even the state Home Department is not free from the scourge of this social evil. There were a number of uniform scandals and not a single official or police officer has been named, not to talk of pulling him up and meeting out punishment. That is not all. Fake appointments are galore particularly in the Education Department. Teachers have been appointed and paid their salaries on the basis of fake appointment orders. No one will agree that officials are not involved in the case. The State Vigilance Commission, the state's own version of the "most wanted" CBI have managed to arrest a few person's appointed with fake orders, but none of the persons behind this racket are pulled up. These are some of the telling commentaries of how abysmal and ineffective our administration and criminal justice system are. The opposition parties highlighted these while the issues are very very hot, but they too seem to

have washed their hands off. They will remember them in times of elections. We don't believe that those responsible for siphoning of public money and money laundering will ever be found out and made to pay for their misdeeds. Cases have also been handed over to the CBI, but it makes little differences. The trend is very dangerous for the State. Accepting that corruption should be allowed to be part and parcel of our life is most dangerous". (Editorial: The Sangai Express, Imphal)

With this in mind, an attempt has been made to know the attitudes of the educated unemployed Manipuri youth towards the role and the functioning of various vital agencies such as educational system, bureaucracy, political parties, judiciary, and security forces. Besides, their attitudes towards family and community have also been ascertained. Their responses are presented in simple percentage form. I have not made use of some of the scaling methods available in current sociological works⁵.

Beginning with the educational system, it is pertinent to read carefully the University Grant Commission report on the educational system (1978) which says: *"The history of Indian education is a picture of light and shade, of some outstanding achievements along with many outstanding failures.... It continues to be dominated by models and value system adopted during the colonial regime, it lays greater emphasis on narrow individualism, unhealthy competition, to the neglect of social good, verbal fluency and mere acquisition of information, which it neglects social obligations, cooperation, manual work, training in skills and building up character"*⁶. Again, eminent sociologist M.S.Gore writes thus:

“One of the major criticisms against the present system of education is that it seems suited only to turn out bureaucrats and white-collar professionals. While these functionaries are necessary for our society, there are many other occupational functions for which the system seems ill equipped to provide adequately trained persons. As this system expands, reaching out to more and more segments in the population, it seems to make them unfit for the occupations pursued by these segments and makes them aspire only to the occupations of the urban, white-collar class⁷. He further writes: “No doubt, there are limitations of the present system of education. But, it will be wrong to blame the system for the whole mess. An education system does not operate in a vacuum. It is greatly influenced by the characteristics of the environment. Education cannot maintain its excellence or its democratic character unless the policy makers, planners and administrators are willing to support its thrusts in these directions”⁸.

Considering the present situation of rampant educated unemployment and the linkage of education in meeting the job requirements, the educated unemployed level of satisfaction towards the educational system has been categorized into: satisfied, partially satisfied and not satisfied. Table given below presents the relevant information I have gathered.

Table 4.13 Distribution of Respondents' Level of Satisfaction towards the Present Educational System

Level of Satisfaction	Rural		Urban		Male + Female	%age
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Satisfied	32	14	17	9	72	24
Partially Satisfied	31	10	56	27	124	41.33
Not Satisfied	43	10	35	16	104	34.66

It is found that a larger majority of the sampled educated are not satisfied with the present educational system. Only twenty four per cent educated are found to be satisfied, whereas another 41.33 per cent are partially satisfied and the rest, that is 34.66 per cent are not satisfied at all in the present system of education Views of some respondents are given here:

"I am partially satisfied because the present educational system is mainly examination oriented".

"The present educational system does not give the students the right direction for the job in which the students likes".

"I am not satisfied in the existing educational system because it produces too many educated unemployment".

"I think the present educational system is good. It will be wrong to blame the system for educated unemployment, because there are many factors for unemployment".

Coming to bureaucracy, ideally Robert K.Merton has defined it as *"a formal, rationally organised social structure (with) clearly defined patterns of activity in which, ideally, every series of actions is functionally related to the purposes of the organisations"*⁹. Again, Max Weber has listed several characteristics of the ideal type of bureaucracy.¹⁰ Bureaucracy is in fact the most efficient form of organisation that human being has devised, because all tasks are regulated by strict rules of procedures. According to Max Weber, modern bureaucracy is a highly effective means of organising large numbers of people, ensuring that decisions are taken according to the common criteria. Despite the popular associations of bureaucracy

with re-tape and inefficiency, bureaucratic form of organisation is an effective and efficient ways of getting things done. Following this ideal formulation, the bureaucracy in any country should play a pivotal role in administration and as it is in India.

However, the general assumption these days is that bureaucratic set up in our country was more effective before independence than it is today. There is hardly any level of bureaucracy that is free of corruption. The unholy nexus between the politicians and bureaucrats has completely changed the nature of bureaucracy in the last half century. Corruption, arbitrariness, inefficiency and lack of interest in the public welfare are riding high in the corridors of bureaucracy from top level officials to the bottom. Today, the politicisation of bureaucracy is widely condemned by all. Bureaucrats of today are increasingly connected and influenced by the politicians, which badly damages the images of the bureaucratic structure. Bureaucrats should be free from politics and the unholy influence of the politicians. The bureaucracy should devote to handle and solve the various social, economic and other problems of the country instead of helping the politicians achieve their personal and partisan objectives. With this brief discussion, the educated unemployed youth level of satisfaction in the functioning of bureaucratic machinery in Manipur is ascertained.

The available data indicates that an overwhelming majority of the educated youth carry a negative image of the bureaucracy functioning in the state. The break up of their level of satisfaction is highly satisfactory (2.33%), satisfactory (8.33%), unsatisfactory (47.33%) and highly unsatisfactory (41.33%) respectively.

Table 4.14 Distribution of Respondents' Level of Satisfaction towards the Functioning of Bureaucracy in Manipur

Level Of satisfaction	Male	Female	Male + Female
Highly Satisfactory	6	1	7(2.33%)
Satisfactory	19	6	25(8.33%)
Unsatisfactory	93	49	142(47.33%)
Highly Unsatisfactory	96	28	124(41.33%)
No Opinion	-	2	2(0.66%)

Most youth expressed views similar to the following:

- i. Bureaucracies in the state encourage corruption and nepotism.
- ii. Next to politicians, these people (bureaucrats) exercise power in wrong way.
- iii. Bureaucrats in the state don't have sympathy for the common and poor people.
- iv. They do not work in the interest of the general people and they are money minded.

In addition, the study also attempts to ascertain how the educated unemployed sees the functioning of the political parties in Manipur. Political party may be defined as an organisation orientated towards achieving legitimate control of government through an electoral process. Political parties are the kind of organisations that have their own rules, programs, policies, ideologies, membership, office bearers, offices and symbols. The responsibility of transmitting the people's ideas and aspirations into reality mainly falls on political parties. Political parties are the main bases of the modern democratic political system. Moreover, when political parties fail to perform their due roles, they become unpopular. India has many political parties, and new parties are formed frequently. It happens in Manipur too. The period of one party rule in India has gone. Presently, political alliances of

convenience between smaller parties and one of the two major parties, Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress are common in recent years.

Political parties in recent years have failed to provide stable government at the centre and in many states like Manipur. Moreover, members who split from the larger or parent parties formed many new parties. No doubt, people expect a lot from political parties and the politicians. However, there is a wide gap between what the politicians and political parties delivered as against the expectations of the people. People today seem to have lost faith to our politicians and the political parties. There are many scandals or corruption cases where the ministers or politicians are involved. The quality of our present day politicians can be judged from the fact that out of the 545 'honorable' members of the 13th Lok Sabha, as many as 125 are reported to be facing court cases for one offence or other. With the exception of a few, most politicians are busy in building huge personal fortunes by hook or crook. In this endeavour, they blatantly misuse the bureaucrats. In addition, there are many politicians who switched from one party to another mainly for power, which shows their hunger for power. They usually make big promises especially in the time of the election that never comes to reality.

Manipur has a long history of political instability. Political instability coupled with other issues badly affected the developmental activities undertaken in the state. Here, the elected representatives frequently change their political affiliations in their quest for power. In such a shameful situation, the study attempts to ascertain how the educated youth see the functioning of the political parties or the politicians.

The unemployed youth' levels of satisfaction are recorded to be: highly satisfactory (1%), satisfactory (11%), unsatisfactory (42.66%) and highly unsatisfactory (44.33%). Therefore, it may be concluded that vast majority educated unemployed youth are not satisfied with the working /functioning of political parties. Views expressed by most youth at the time of interview are arranged as follows:

- i. Politicians patronize corruption and communalism.
- ii. Politicians said something and did something.
- iii. Political Parties and politicians aim at power only. They encourage factional fight to capture power.
- iv. Political parties in this country (in Manipur) couldn't provide stable and smooth running government.
- v. Political parties are power hungry. Some parties are the real danger to national integration.
- vi. Politicians are opportunists. They are responsible for present fragile political situation in Manipur.

Table 4.15 Distribution of Respondents' Level of Satisfaction to the Functioning of Political Parties

Level of Satisfaction	Male	Female	Total	%age
Highly satisfactory	3	-	3	1
Satisfactory	25	8	33	11
Unsatisfactory	78	50	128	42.66
Highly unsatisfactory	106	27	133	44.33
No opinion	2	1	3	1

In governance of a democracy like India, a most crucial role is to be played by the judiciary. It is one of the three basic organs of the state, the other two being the legislature and the executive. An independent and impartial judiciary plays a significant role in most modern societies. However, the Indian judicial system suffer from several maladies, some of these could be diagnosed as: (i) huge pendency, (ii) long time taken for disposal of cases, (iii) lengthy procedure, (iv) non-accountable bar, (v) absence of checks and balance, and (vi) docile and dormant public¹¹.

The following table summed up the unemployed youths' level of satisfaction towards the functioning of judiciary particularly in Manipur. The breaks up of their response are: highly satisfactory (9.33%), satisfactory (29.33%), unsatisfactory (43%) and highly unsatisfactory (15.33%). Unlike their response to the functioning of the political parties and bureaucracy, a larger proportion of the unemployed are satisfied with the performance of the judiciary. The youth therefore carries better image of the judiciary as compared to bureaucracy and political parties.

Table 4.16 Respondents' Level of Satisfaction towards the Functioning of Judiciary

Level of satisfaction	Male	Female	Total	%age
Highly satisfactory	22	6	28	9.33
Satisfactory	60	28	88	29.33
Unsatisfactory	91	38	129	43.00
Highly unsatisfactory	35	11	46	15.33
No Opinion	6	3	9	3.00

Views expressed by most youth in this study are grouped as follows:

- i. Judicial decisions always favour those who can pay money and has political backing.
- ii. Judiciary is corrupt and took long time for judgement.
- iii. Money and politics very much influenced in its functioning.
- iv. As compared to politicians and bureaucrats, the judges are far better and fair. Judicial system is working smoothly.

Manipur is one of the most disturbed insurgency ridden states in the country. The image of the security forces operating in the state is not people friendly. Public resentment against them is generally high. There is alleged widespread corruption in the state police department that badly affect its morale and discipline. Excesses committed by the security forces in combating insurgency movement have always been condemned. Our study again find out the unemployed youth attitudes towards the security forces.

Table 4.17 Distribution of Respondents Level of Satisfaction towards the Functioning of Police and other Security forces in Manipur

Level of satisfaction	Male	Female	Total	%age
Highly satisfactory	9	4	13	4.33
Satisfactory	32	7	39	13
Unsatisfactory	103	53	156	52
Highly unsatisfactory	70	22	92	30.66
No opinion	-	-	-	-

The table given above summed up their level of satisfaction towards the roles and functioning of security forces in this troubled torn state of Manipur. As expected an overwhelming majority of the educated unemployed youth carry a negative image of the security forces. Their levels of satisfaction are: highly satisfactory (4.33%),

satisfactory (13%), unsatisfactory (52%) and highly unsatisfactory (30.66%). Majority of the youth blame the security forces for the lack of discipline, human rights violations, misuse of power, and disregards for the honour of women. Their feelings can be better understood from the following statements:

"Frankly speaking, we find the lack of discipline among the police and other security personnel in Manipur. They are over-smart. They are responsible for atrocities to civilians in the name of insurgency operation and disregard the honour of womanhood, human rights violation through the draconian acts like the Armed Forces Special Power Act of 1958".

"They always misuse the power given to them and always harassed the innocent people. The police department is one of the most corrupt departments in the state". Similar views are also expressed by many youth".

Coming to their perception, of the roles of family and community particularly towards the educated unemployed, the following data are available.

Table 4.18 Percentage distribution of the Respondents' Attitudes towards the Role and Functions of Family and Community

Level of satisfaction	Family			Community		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Highly satisfactory	31.30	24.05	30.66	21.02	13.95	19
Satisfactory	50.93	52.32	51.33	43.45	48.83	45
Unsatisfactory	16.82	16.27	16.66	31.77	30.23	31.33
Highly unsatisfactory	0.93	2.32	1.33	3.73	5.81	4.33
No opinion	-	-	-	-	1.16	0.33

We understand from the data presented above the larger majority of the educated youth are satisfied with the functioning of family and community as vital societal agencies. As in the case of family, their levels of satisfaction are highly satisfactory (30.66%), satisfactory (51.33%), unsatisfactory (16.66%) and highly unsatisfactory (1.32%). In addition, their levels of satisfaction to the community are: highly satisfactory (19%), satisfactory (45%), unsatisfactory (31.33%) and highly unsatisfactory (4.33%). Most youth express their satisfaction towards the supportive role of their family despite their helplessness. However, a larger number of them think that their community has unsympathetic attitudes towards the plight of the educated unemployed youth.

PART III

Social Consequences of Youth Unemployment

Manipur is characterised by a high degree of social, economic and political instability. With around 24 lakh population, it has been the home of various issues and problems ranging from widespread corruption at the state administration, political instability, ethnic unrest, insurgency movement, drug abuse/AIDS and rampant unemployment. The state has become a rampant theatre of agitation; where hardly a week or a month is free from one kind of agitation or the other. These issues and problems are the biggest hurdle in the planned development activities undertaken in the state. As mentioned earlier, there are around four lakh jobseekers in the state, among whom many are educated. Besides, there are many more unemployed, who have not registered in the Employment Exchanges. In recent years, the state has witnessed a tremendous quantitative expansion of education. Nevertheless, because of its economic backwardness, the large armies of educated youth are compelled to remain jobless. What we should keep in mind is that education is not just for the sake of knowledge. It is a huge investment for socio-economic development. *“Education is becoming so fused with occupations that it may be seen as a part of the economic foundations of the society”* (Burton R. Clark)¹². Unfortunately, there is a large imbalance between the demand and the supply of the quantitatively much larger educated personnel. If the situation goes beyond control, the consequences will be disastrous for the entire Manipuri society as many unemployed youth feel alienated, detached, isolated, frustrated and relatively deprived.

Unemployment is a serious problem for the individual and the society. It affects the individual, the family and the society in many different ways. It gives the youth plenty of idle time. They are frustrated because of the wide gap between their expectations and actual possibilities of their fulfillment. Here, we may look at the effect of unemployment at the individual level:

- i. Psychological problems like frustration, shame, loss of self-confidence and ambitions, and anxiety etc;
- ii. Financial difficulties and problems in their day today life;
- iii. Dejection and less encouragement from the society, resulting in problem adjustment at the family and the societal level; and
- iv. Problem relating to marriage and inferiority complex. Unemployment makes the transition to an independent life problematic.

At the family level, unemployment creates many problems. It undermines the status of the family and its reputations in the neighborhood and the community. It is capable of creating conflict within the family, hereby disturbing the cordial atmosphere at the family level. It undermines the standard of living too. Therefore, socially and economically, unemployment affects the family. Several studies have indicated that a higher rate of trouble and conflict is found in the family of the unemployed.

At the societal level, unemployment is very dangerous. It is a great social evil, which can create more tension and complicated problems. It is a great loss to the society. It is pertinent to mention what Puttaswamiah have said about unemployment: "*Unemployment frustrates an individual and is a stumbling block*

for the development of the country. It is a great evil, it is a poison, it pollutes the society and wrecks the political fibre of a country. it creates devils, it turns good into bad, it changes an honest worker into a criminal. It encourages dishonesty, patronise corruption, glorifies falsehood, bring out dark side of the human character”¹³.

Unemployed youth are deprived of what they are expected to get. The huge gap that exists between their expectations and what they get makes them stupid, lazy, helpless and even non-concern for the future, which in turn is harmful for the society at large. It may as well result in lowering of their goals and aims, which in turn leads to alienation from the mainstream social life. There has been a marked tendency of discontent and revolt among the youth in recent years.

The high rates of youth unemployment need serious attention by the policy makers not only to mitigate the frustrations faced by the new entrants into the workforce but also to minimise the likely alienation and widespread evidence of deviant behaviour of the youth. The unemployment have partly been responsible for the tensions leading to the "sons-of-the soil" movements in different parts of the country including Manipur.

When youth finds their prospect for descent life quite bleak, they can be easily influenced by the anti-social and other alternative forces. Hence, they are likely to indulge in destructive activities out of anger and frustration, thereby posing challenge to the present political system. One of the most respected leaders of the North East India, P A Sangma has observed that the problem of insurgency in the North East region could be solved only through development and by ensuring jobs

for the unemployed and not by holding dialogue or signing accords with the militants, He said, *"The government can never hope to root out insurgency if it cannot get rid of the scourge of unemployment, which is the breeding ground and nursery for insurgency"*¹⁴. Unemployment among the youth aggravates insurgency activities in the state. Unemployed youth are the soft target of the insurgent organizations. Police report confirms that militants arrested by the security forces are earlier unemployed. There are allegations that many unemployed youth out of frustration join the militant groups.

It is apparent that unemployment in the state is also linked to corruption. It is well known that Manipur is one of the most corrupt states in the country, which is evident from the number of corruption cases pending in various courts. Since the state government is the sole provider of jobs, the parents and guardians desire that their wards must be employed by any available means. This naturally involves allegedly to bribing the state ministers, politicians and higher bureaucrats. It has become a common feature in the state as well. This becomes obvious if one looks in the functioning of the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC). The commission does not hold its examinations regularly; its results, in case the examinations are held, are inordinately delayed and its is alleged that the merit list of the candidates are frequently change on non-academic consideration. This naturally angers the youth. Disappointed and disillusioned by such act, the youth loses faith in the system and unrest among the further increases. Hence, he furthers alienate himself from the mainstream social life. In this context, it is appropriate to quote one respondent:

"If we have money and political backing, there is better chance to get a job. In Manipur, to get a job, one has to bribe the ministers and the top officials by giving them money. Only those who can give money and those who have political backing will get jobs. It is very normal thing that people use to pay huge amount to get job or for the selection in medical /engineering entrance examinations. In recent years, the prices of different jobs have risen".

Unemployment also increases the risk of alcoholism, drug-addiction among the youth and since they have no alternative outlet to release frustration, they are more likely to tune their creative energies into wrong channels. In such a way anti-social activities like robbery, burglary, theft, murder etc increases. Hence, there will be more social tensions. Since, unemployment undermines the youth's keenness to work and their skills may deteriorate with a resultant loss to the whole community. Since there are without work, in due course of time they become lazy and even result non-concern for the future.

Besides, widespread unemployment leads to an increase in exploitation of the helpless educated unemployed by others, mainly because of their pitiful situation, which weakens their bargaining power. As for instance, many educated in Manipur are compelled to work without proper and officially approved rates of remuneration in the private schools or colleges and other establishments. This may be seen a manifestation of naked exploitation. The unemployed youth has low bargaining power; hence they are more likely to exploited. Even suicide may be one of the disastrous consequences of despair and frustration among the unemployed youth. It is appropriate to put what E.Wright Bakke writes *"With a job, there is a*

future, without a job, there is a slow dearth of all that makes a man ambitious, industrious and glad to be alive"¹⁵.

Unemployment is also one of the biggest hurdles in the path of developmental activities in the state. If uncontrolled spread of unemployment among the educated youth is not checked, the state will face destabilizing consequences in the coming days. There can never be social, economic and political stability in the state, if large numbers of youth are without work and remain unemployed. Therefore, it is right time that the policy planners to take concrete steps to tackle the situation before it goes beyond control.

Notes and References

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2. Visaria, Pavin, *Unemployment Among the Youth in India: Level, Nature and Policy Implications*, ILO Employment and Training Papers 36, Geneva, 1998:40.
3. Indian Applied Manpower Research, *Evaluation of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana*, New Delhi, 2000.
4. Mahadevan, K. "Combating Educated Unemployment: The Case of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in Bangalore", Paper Presented at ISLE conference, December 9-11, 2000, Jabalpur.
5. During the preparation on this thesis, I have referred to quite a number of sociological studies on youth that were available in the libraries of Shillong then. I must admit that here that a few select books had a direct influence on the nature of developing my research technique. I decided to follow their methods of analyzing the data collected in the field. I wish to present the names of some sociological works that guided my research. (I) Prem Kirpal, Youth and Established Culture,

New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1976; (II) GK Karanath, *Rural Youth: A sociological study of a Karnataka village*, New Delhi: Concept, 1981; (III) C Parvathamma, *Employment Problems of University Graduates*, New Delhi: Ashish Publishing House, 1984; and LS Mehra, *Youth in Modern India* (Hasan S Zafar, *Research in Sociology and Social Work*, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Lucknow, 1971).

6. University Grants Commission, *UGC Report- A Policy Frame*, New Deli, 1978.

7. Gore, M.S., *Indian Education: Structure and Process*, Jaipur and Delhi: Rawat Publications, 1995:10.

8. Ibid: 11.

9. Merton, K. Robert, *Social Theory and Social Structure*, New York: Free Press, 1957:195.

10. *Weber's characterisation of bureaucracy is as follows: i. There is a clear-cut hierarchy of authority, such that tasks in the organisation are distributed as 'official duties'. A bureaucracy looks like a pyramid, with the positions of higher authority at the top. There is a 'chain of command', stretching from top to bottom, making co-ordinate decision-making possible. Each higher office controls and supervises the one below it in the hierarchy.*

ii. *Written rules govern the conduct of officials at all levels of the organisation. This does not mean that bureaucratic duties are just a matter of routine. The higher the office, the more the rules involved tend to encompass a wide variety of cases and demand flexibility in their interpretation.*

iii. *Officials are full time and salaried. Each job in the hierarchy has a definite and fixed salary attached to it. The individual is expected to make a career within the organisation. Promotion is possible on the basis of capacity, seniority, or a mixture of the two.*

iv. *There is a separation between the tasks of the official within the organisation and life outside. The 'home life' of the official is distinct from her or his activities in the workplace, and is also physically separated from it.*

v. No member or members of the organisation own the material resources within which they operate. See Max Weber, *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* (2 Vols.), Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.

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CHAPTER V

CONCLUSSION

In the present chapter, an attempt has been made to summarize the findings of the present study. Firstly, it is appropriate to mention here what Anthony Giddens in his book '*Sociology*' writes:

The experience of unemployment can be understood in terms of what holding a job provides. Six main characteristics of paid work are relevant here.

- i. *Money: A wage or salary is the main resources most people depend on to meet their needs. Without such an income, anxieties about coping with day today life tend to multiply.*
- ii. *Activity level: Employment often provides a basis for the acquisition and exercise of skills and capacities. Even where work is routine, it offers a structured environment in which a person's energies may be absorbed. Without employment, the opportunity exercise such skills and capacities may be reduced.*
- iii. *Variety: Employment provides access to contexts to that contrast with domestic surroundings. In the working environment, even when the tasks are relatively dull, individuals may enjoy doing something different from home chores. Unemployment reduces this source of contrast with the domestic milieu.*
- iv. *Temporal structure: For people in regular employment, the day is usually organised around the rhythm of work. While this may sometimes be oppressive, it provides a sense of direction in daily activities. Those who are out of work frequently find boredom a major problem and develop a sense of apathy about time.*

v. *Social contacts: The work environment often provides friendships and opportunities to participate in shared activities with others. Separated from the work setting, a person's circle of possible friends and acquaintance is likely to dwindle.*

vi. *Personal identity: Employment is usually valued for the sense of stable social identity it offers. For men in particular, self-esteem is often bound up with the economic contribution they make to the maintenance of the household (See: Giddens Anthony, *Sociology*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1989: 505-506). However, more and more youth are deprived of the above mentioned opportunities.*

The study in the *first chapter*, explains the conceptual definition of 'youth' and extensively analyses about youth. It also explain in detail the meaning of unemployment, types of unemployment and the various forms of unemployment which are peculiar in developing countries like India. The growth and expansion of modern education as well the traditional educational system of the early Manipuris is also briefly highlighted. It will be interesting to put here that, in 1897, there were just a middle English school and four primary schools, whereas at present there are more than four thousands educational institutions of varied types. Likewise, the enrollment of students in different levels of education keeps on increasing at fast pace. Besides, thousands of Manipuri students are studying in other parts of the country and abroad. The percentage of literacy in the beginning of the twentieth century (1901) was less than one per cent, has increased to 65 per cent (2001 census).

Along with the rapid expansion of education, educated unemployment has been fast spreading in the state. It is rampant in Manipur. There exist a wide gap between the expansion of employment opportunities and the number of people looking for work. This imbalance compels many educated to rendered jobless. Available data on unemployment shows that during 1957-58, there were just 1,522 jobseekers in the live register of Employment Exchanges in Manipur. The corresponding figure has increased to 6,540 in 1965-66; 1,15,546 in 1980-81; 1,83,485 in 1990-91 and 3,97,276 in 1999-2000. The growth rate from 1990-91 to 1999-2000 was around 11.1 per cent.

In order to bring out the problems and constraints face by the educated unemployed youth, a sample of 300 unemployed youth have been carefully selected from among the 2,459 educated unemployed youth, only graduates and post-graduates degree holders of the arts, science and commerce streams, who registered in the Employment Exchange, Lamphelpat, Imphal during the period 1995-1996, by systematic sampling technique. Then, personal interviews were undertaken with the help of a carefully framed questionnaire to get the desired information of the study. Besides, another 50 prominent personalities (academicians, administrators, journalists, and social workers) were also personally interviewed to ascertain their expectations towards the educated youth.

The fieldwork commenced from November 1998 to April 1999, that is, six months. My study widely use the data and related information provided by various agencies like the Directorate of Employment; Directorate of Economics & Statistics of the Government of Manipur; Employment Exchange, Lamphelpat, Imphal and

also publications of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) New Delhi; University Grants Commission (UGC) New Delhi; Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) of the Ministry of labour, Government of India, New Delhi. Related books and journals both the national and international have been extensively consulted. This chapter briefly highlights some pioneering work done on youth unemployment. Unfortunately, I have not come any research material on youth unemployment to Manipur.

As a beginner in the field of social research, I came across many unknown experiences and difficulties mainly during the fieldwork. I must say the fieldwork was a very challenging experience. The prevailing volatile law and order has made the fieldwork quite disturbing. Naturally, some people also refused to cooperate. Nevertheless, I am satisfied with the response that I received mainly from the educated unemployed youth. However, I am sorry for non-availability of some important data in time especially on Manipur, which would have very much enriched the present work if used.

Chapter two of the present work presents the social background of the educated unemployed. Of the total 300 unemployed youth, 214 are males as against 86 females. One hundred and forty of them have the rural background and the rest i.e. one hundred and sixty have the urban background. All of them fall in the age group 20-35, out of which 56.3 per cent belongs to the age group of 23-28 years, and another group of 42.3 per cent is between 29-35 years.

Most of them are single or unmarried. Only seventeen of them are found married. Regarding their religious background, 88 per cent are Hindus followed by

those belonging to Christian religion (10%) and only 2 per cent are Muslims. A little more than half of the educated are graduates and the rest (47.32%) are post-graduates including MPhil and Ph.D. degree holders. Of the total 300 youth, 46.66 per cent has the arts background, another group of 43.66 per cent belongs to science and the remaining 9.66 per cent are from the commerce background. It is found that 19.66 per cent fathers as against 44 per cent mothers of the respondents' are illiterate or don't have formal education. They (the respondents) are mostly educated from the state government schools. An analysis of the results of their matriculation examination shows that those educated from the private or central government schools score more marks as compared to those who passed out from the state government aided/managed schools.

Salaried job is found to be the main occupation to 42 per cent families; next comes agricultur and subsequently business. In addition, the available data shows that those families with business as the main occupation have more income than the families with agriculture and salaried job as the main occupations. Sixty seven per cent of the respondents' family has one or more permanently employed member(s). But, 33 per cent families doesn't have even a single permanently employed person in the whole household. Regarding the size of the household, 44 per cent, the largest group and another 42 percent, the second largest group, families have 5-7 and 8-10 members respectively.

One very notable observation during the fieldwork is that a large number of the educated unemployed were reluctant to give in detail about their family income. This is mainly because of the prevailing volatile law and order situation in the state.

However, most of the educated unemployed considers their family economic conditions as “self sufficient” or “low”.

Chapter three is dealt with the position of the educated unemployed youth in the family and community, the people expectations from them. The chapter also analyse the educated youth attitudes towards marriage and the problems relating to marriage. It is found that an overwhelming majority of the educated are economically dependent to their parents or guardians. Only 82 (27.33%) out of the 300 youth are self-dependent. However, their monthly income is insufficient to meet their daily expenses. They are mainly working part time, like teaching part time in schools/colleges including government colleges and other private establishments, where their income ranges from Rs. 500- Rs 1000. With these meager income they are economically handicapped.

It is also understand that vast majority of the unemployed youth feel hesitation to asked for money to their parents or guardians every now and then. Most of them say that as the time passes, they are more hesitated to take money, even from their parents. The economic hardships in their day today life affect them immensely. However, our study shows that a larger majority of the unemployed youth get their required money mainly from their parents. Failure to contribute economically for themselves and to their families really worried them. Majority of them think that they are liability to their parents.

A little more than half of the educated youth always interact with their family head, however, it is not so in the case of remaining others. Again, a little more than half of the unemployed youth are always consulted in matters pertaining to their

families, and there seems to be similarity of opinion with the family head. However, they have pity for not being able to contribute materially to their families.

Forty-two per cent educated are of the view that unemployed youth are not fairly treated by the people. Many of them experience that if the educated remain unemployed, the people respect and regard gradually goes down. If the educated remain unemployed, they have nothing to gain from the society, instead it will further degrade their images in the society /community. Majority of them perceives their status as low in the society. Most of them again think that people have less interest to listen to their opinion or comments whenever any discussion comes up.

A vast majority think that their position in the family too is low. In addition, they perceive that besides affecting economically and psychologically, the social status or reputations of their families are being affected in the surrounding locality, because of their unemployment. Unemployment therefore, undermines the family status and reputation in the neighborhood and community. On the other hand, it can create conflict among the family members thereby disturbing cordial relationships. It affects the standard of living too. Hence, unemployment disrupts the family relationship.

Fifty prominent personalities that includes academicians, administrators, journalists and social workers have been randomly selected and personally interviewed so as to understand their expectations towards the educated manipuri youth. Their expectations are summarized as follows:

- i. They want the educated youth to opt for central government jobs rather than the state government jobs; and want them to be more mobile, instead of

confining within the state. This is because of the fact that the employment opportunities in the state are too limited.

ii. Expect the youth to work in agriculture and its allied activities.

iii. Expect them to take up self-employment ventures; and

iv. Greater participation in social development activities.

An unfortunate finding of the present study is that majority of the educated unemployed youth are not sure of fulfilling the expectations of their parents or guardians.

A good number of unemployed youth are found to have associated with various welfare and sports organizations. Besides, some of them even have linked with political parties and their associated organizations. As expected, most of their friends are unemployed. Almost half of the youth interact with their friends almost everyday.

It is also found that more male as against female unemployed are involved in roaming and gossiping in their day today life. In addition, a larger majority of the unemployed youth moderately listens to radio or watch TV. On the other hand, more than half of them rarely go for movies in cinema theatre. Newspaper is read by most of them. It may be mentioned that 42.05 per cent male as against 20.93 per cent female read regularly for competitive examinations and job advertisement.

It is also found that very few of them play games and sports. However, a good number of them participate/involve in social activities in their localities. As expected more female unemployed are involved in household work.

Forty per cent unemployed youth drink alcohol. Most of them are of the opinion that it is not related to their frustration due to prolonged unemployment.

Coming to marriage, majority of the educated youth believes in the essentiality of the institution of marriage. Interestingly, 72 per cent among them consider the age between 26-30 years as the right time for males to get married and in the case of females the same group is considered ideal by 51 per cent of the respondents. Generally, they prefer the females to marry at a younger age than males. Of the 300 educated unemployed, 17 are married. Most of educated youth are in high time to get married. Nevertheless, most of them couldn't give their time for marriage. For many youth even though they are in their prime, prefer to marry after having a job, which means a regular income to support them. Failure to get jobs compelled many of them to delay their marriage. Mention may be here that, unemployed youth have a least chance of getting married at the right time as compared to the employed one.

An overwhelming majority of them prefer self-choice or love marriage with parents' approval, whereas only 13.66 per cent of them prefer an arranged marriage. Quite interestingly, more female unemployed prefer to marry an employed one and those who belong to high economic background. Whereas, an almost equal number of male and female unemployed prefer physical beauty in the selection of their marriage partners. Many of them think that if they are employed, the chances of getting partner of their liking are very high. However, more male unemployed are concerned about their unemployment status as an important factor in the selection of right life partners than that of the female youth. Interestingly, 70 per cent are hopeful

of getting life partners of their choice. Family compulsion and love for each other are found to be the major factors that compelled some of them to get married despite of their unemployment. Unfortunately, almost all of them are still economically dependent to their parents.

Chapter four of the present work analyses the employment aspirations and expectations of the educated youth and examines their awareness of the various employment-related programmes like JRY, IRDP, EAS, TRYSEM, PMRY. The chapter on the other hand discusses in details the educated unemployed attitudes towards the functioning of vital societal agencies like educational system, bureaucracy, political parties, judiciary, police and other security forces including family and community. The social consequences of youth unemployment is also discussed in this chapter.

Regarding their employment aspirations and expectations, it is found that 38 per cent unemployed prefer administrative jobs, followed by teaching (37%), and 13.33 per cent among them will like to be in the police and other security forces. However, 6.33 per cent want to take up clerical jobs and the remaining 5.33 per cent of the youth are undecided on the type of future jobs. The aspirations of the educated jobseekers are reflected in their preference/desire for particular jobs. There are strong preferences for ready-made white-collar government jobs rather than self-employment among the educated unemployed. These jobs provide stability and security of tenure with assured levels of wages/salaries along with guaranteed retirement benefit. Jobs that does not guarantee such benefits and demands individual initiative and involved risks are least preferred by the educated

unemployed youth. Sell-employment is considered to be the last resort for them. They may go for this type of employment only when they have no hope of getting wage employment.

Majority of the unemployed youth have been waiting/looking for jobs for 3 years or more. It is evident that educated youth in the state have been increasingly experiencing long spell of unemployment. It is also found that a larger majority of educated youth had already applied for one or more jobs; and only 14 per cent of them had not applied as yet. There is a sense of futility waiting for jobs among them.

As cited before, most of the educated unemployed have less interest to take up self-employment ventures. The study explores that an overwhelming majority (80 per cent) of the educated prefer government jobs as against 12.66 per cent who prefer self-employment. Only 7.33 per cent want private sector jobs. In Manipur, the state government employment is considered as the most significant source of gainful employment. What is true to mention is that the present education is considered a mean of securing white-collar jobs. Generally, they want to enter this class somehow.

More than half (54 per cent) of the educated youth prefer state government employment as against another 41 per cent who prefer central government jobs. Majority of them also love to work within the state and their hunt for employment is confine mainly within Manipur. The available data also support that an overwhelming majority (82 per cent) of them have not been to other place(s) in search of jobs.

Repeated failure in their attempts to get job further frustrate them. A large number of the unemployed feel a strong sense of futility waiting for job. The situation compels many of them to think of accepting any kind of job whether big or small coming on their way. This is the manifestation of their gradually loosening of hope of getting employed.

Difficulties in getting jobs compels many educated to prolong their studies. Our study also seen that 7 per cent educated unemployed are found pursuing some courses, though they have already completed their main studies. This is because of the fact that by joining a course of study, they can spend their time more meaningfully than sitting idle at home or going here and there. Interestingly, almost all of them prefer to be employed rather than pursuing these studies.

In order to check the rapid growth of unemployment over the years, the government of India from time to time implemented various employment-related programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) etc. The study makes an effort to understand the effectiveness of these programmes among the educated youth. However, only 62 per cent of them are aware of such schemes. Unfortunately, none of them have been availing the facilities. These programmes fail to attract them, as they prefer ready-made white-collar jobs. Many of them would opt for such opportunities only when they fail to get their dream jobs. However, they complain about the malpractices involved in the implementation of such schemes.

A good number of the educated (35 per cent) think that they will not get the real benefit of what they are supposed/ expected to get as par their education, though 24.66 per cent are hopeful of achieving their dreams. However, another 40 per cent among them uncertain.

The general perception in Manipur is that the educational system has failed, as it is evident from the rampant educated unemployment. Added to this the political parties fail to provide political stability and the politicians are corrupt. Besides, the bureaucratic and the judicial machineries too fail to fulfil the people's expectations. In doing so, the security forces are condemned as well for various reasons. In such dismal atmosphere, the frustration among the growing educated youth increase manifold. Quite a large number of the educated in the study are not satisfied with the present educational system mainly for the large scale production of educated, who remains unutilized in the society. They are worried about the poor quality of education in the state. They also blame the bureaucrats of the state for their unsympathetic attitudes towards the plight of the educated. They consider the bureaucrats as inefficient, corrupt and dishonest. Like wise they are also not satisfied with the role and functioning of the political parties and politicians mainly for failure to provide political stability, encouraging corruption, big promises and power hunger. However, they have more satisfactory attitudes towards the judiciary as compared to bureaucracy and political parties. The security forces including the state police are strongly condemned by them mainly for misuse of power, indiscipline, disregard for the honour of womanhood and various human right violations.

As far as their attitude towards the family and their community is concerned, they have more satisfactory attitudes towards the family. They appreciate the supportive role extended to them by their respective families. In addition, they have satisfactory attitudes towards the roles that the family contributes in the social system. However, it is not so with the community. They perceive that their community has unsympathetic attitudes towards the educated unemployed. They also blame their community for the lack unity and selfishness. Many of them think that the educated unemployed youth are the reference point in the community in every discussion.

Finally, after doing intensive fieldwork and interacting with the milieu immediately effected by the problem of unemployment, I have a few suggestions to make to combat the fast growing menace of youth unemployment in Manipur:

1. The state must maintain a conducive social life by regulating law and order.
2. Development and expansion of infrastructure facilities like power, transport and communication, and irrigation for agriculture must be taken on war footing.
3. Introduction of electronics and information technology industry as a priority area for the future.
4. Modernization of agriculture and its allied activities must be immediately taken up.
5. Encouragement of small and cottage industries particularly handloom, handicraft and sericulture must be accorded top priority.

6. Development of requisite infrastructure for tourism industry be taken up.

7. Above all, the contents and quality of education must be re-oriented for producing self-supporting individuals and not the educated parasites.

To sum up, the Indian State of Manipur is predominantly an agrarian society. The industrial sector in this land-locked small state never emerged as a viable source of employment. Here, the various employment programmes too failed despite the tall claims of the government. State administration is the most significant source of gainful employment. To add further to the bleak situation, the rapid expansion of education coupled with slow economic development has created a situation, where the white-collar jobs in the government establishments are the most preferred employment. Moreover, the state government, the largest employer in Manipur, has failed to tackle the menace of unemployment because it lacks a concerted employment policy. Such a situation, where a large bulk of the educated, alert and potentially active youth are unemployed, will breed a politically explosive society in which violence, conflict and unrest will rule the roost.

- III. Self-employed -----
- IV. If any (please specify) -----
- 2.6 Do you think, your family is economically, (tick one)
 (a) Very sound (b) Good (c) Self-sufficient (d) Low
- 3.
- 3.1 Level of education completed:
 (a) Graduation (b) Post-graduation (c) Research level
- 3.2 Which of the given stream, do you belong to?
 (a) Arts (b) Science (c) Commerce
- 3.3 The larger part of your schooling was done in:
 (a) Government/ government aided school
 (b) Private school (c) Any other (specify) -----
- 3.4 Your educational performance, (indicates division)
 (I) Matric -----
 (II) Intermediate -----
 (III) Graduation: Division -----
 (IV) Others: Division -----
- 3.5 Parent's education:
 Father: Studied upto----- or illiterate.
 Mother: Studied upto----- or illiterate
- 4.
- 4.1 Your view on marriage:
 (a) Essential (b) Not essential
 If so, give reasons: -----
- 4.2 Best time to marry (in years): Boys:----- Girls:-----
- 4.3 (*For unmarried*) Do you expect to get married? Yes / No
- 4.4 Do unemployment delay your marriage? Yes / No
- 4.5 Which of the two statements you prefer most?
 (a) Marriage after getting job.

(b) Marriage even before getting job.

Please give a brief reason: -----

4.6 Which of the following marriage pattern do you prefer?

(a) Arranged

(b) Self-choice or love marriage with parent's approval.

(c) Self-choice or love marriage without parent's approval.

Explain the reason for your preference: -----

4.7 (For unmarried respondents)

Do you hope to find a life partner of your choice? Yes / No

Is it dependent upon your employment status? Yes / No

4.8 To what extent, the following criteria would you consider in the selection of your marriage partner?

	To great extent	To some extent	Not at all
Employed one			
Unemployed one			
High Economic status			
Physical Beauty			

4.9 What is your main source of monthly sustenance at present?

(a) Parents / Guardians

(ii) Any other (Please specify) -----

4.10 Do you get the required money?

(a) Most of the time (b) Frequently (c) Rarely

4.11 (If you are economically dependent to your parents / guardians)

Do you feel free to ask money from your parents / guardians? Yes / No

4.12 Do you think that you are a liability to your family because of your unemployment? Yes / No

If yes, Why?-----

4.13 How often do your family consult you in family matters?

- (a) Always (b) Sometimes (c) Rarely
- 4.14 In general, how similar is your opinion with your family head in family matters?
 (a) Very similar (b) Somewhat similar (c) Somewhat similar
 (d) Very differ
 Generally on what issues-----
- 4.15 In general, how often do you interact with your family head?

- 4.16 How fairly, people treat the educated unemployed youth?
 (a) Very fairly (b) Fairly (c) Not fairly
- 4.17 Do you agree that the status of educated unemployed is low in the community?
 (a) Strongly agree (b) Agree (c) Disagree (d) Strongly disagree
- 4.18 Does unemployment affect your status at home as well as the status of your family in the community? Yes / No
- 4.19 In the near future, do you think that, you can fulfil the expectations of your parents / guardians? Yes / No / Can't say
- 5.
- 5.1 At present, do you have any link or association with the following:
 (I) Political association / Organisation Yes / No
 (II) Cultural association / Organisation Yes / No
 (III) Welfare association / Organisation Yes / No
 (IV) Sports association / Organisation Yes / No
- 5.2 Please give a brief account of the nature and level of your involvement.

- 5.3 With whom do you interact most?
 (a) Employed friends (II) Unemployed friends
 Please give the reason, why?-----
- 5.4 How often do you interact with your friends?

(I) Everyday (II) Sometimes

5.5 How often do you involve in the following?

Level of Involvement			
	Severe Involvement	Moderate Involvement	Mild Involvement
Roaming & Gossiping			
With Radio /TV			
Movies			
Newspaper reading			
Games and Sports			
Social activities			
Household work			

5.6 Do you drink alcohol? Yes / No

Do you think that, it is related to unemployment? Yes / No

6.

6.1 What is your main source of information about job?

(a) Employment Exchanges (b) Advertisement

(c) Friends or Relatives (d) Any other (specify): -----

6.2 What kind of job would you like to?

(a) Teaching (b) Administration (c) Police / armed forces

(d) Any other (specify)-----

6.3 Do you still hope to get a suitable job of your choice? Yes / No / Can't say

6.4 Would you accept any job, if offered to you by the government? Yes / No

6.5 How long you have been waiting for job? -----

6.6 So far, how many jobs have you applied? -----

6.7 What is your preference in the following sector of employment?

(i) Government (ii) Private sector (iii) Self-employment

- (d) Others (specify) -----
- 6.8 Have you been other place or places in search of employment?
Yes / No, If yes, give details -----
- 6.9 What is your preference:
(a) Central government job (b) State government job
Please give the reason -----
- 6.10 Where do you want to be employed?
(a) Within Manipur (b) Within N.E. India
© Anywhere in India (e) Outside India
- 6.11 When did you complete your studies? -----
- 6.12 What is your level of satisfaction towards the present educational system?
(a) Satisfied (b) Partially satisfied (c) Not satisfied
Give reasons -----
7. Your level of satisfaction regarding the role and functioning of the following agencies /institutions:
- 7.1 Bureaucracy in Manipur,
(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory
(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly unsatisfactory
Give reasons in details -----
- 7.2 Functioning of political parties and politicians
(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory
(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly satisfactory
Give reasons in details -----
- 7.3 Functioning of judiciary
(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory
(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly satisfactory
Give reason in details -----
- 7.4 Police and other security forces in Manipur,
(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory

(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly unsatisfactory

Give reason in details -----

7.5 Role of family towards the educated unemployed youth,

(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory

(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly unsatisfactory

Give comments -----

7.6 Community attitudes towards educated unemployed youth,

(a) Highly satisfactory (b) Satisfactory

(c) Unsatisfactory (d) Highly unsatisfactory

Give comments -----

7.7 Are you aware of the programmes and policies launched by the government for the unemployed?

(a) Aware (b) Not aware at all

If aware, why such facilities cannot be availed of by you?

Please explain -----

If not aware, why is it so?

Please comment -----

7.8 Do you think that your life will end up in a job doing something different from what you have been trained?

Yes / No / No response

If yes, why-----

If no, give comment. -----

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- iii. Singh M. Amarjeet (2000), "Unemployment Among the Educated Youth in Manipur" (abstract), The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol.3, No.4, New Delhi.
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5. Seminar/ Workshop/ Conference Attended:

- i. The XXVII All India Sociological Conference, 26-28 December 2001 at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.
- ii. A two-day workshop on the Elimination of Child Labour in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, organised by VV Giri National Labour Institute at Imphal between 27-28 March 2001.
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