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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

REPORT ON
THE PILOT ENQUIRY OF REGISTRANTS IN THE LIVE REGISTER OF
PALGHAT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS
TRIVANDRUM
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REPORT ON THE PILOT ENQUIRY OF REGISTRANTS IN THE LIVE REGISTER OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE PALGHAT

1. Introduction

High incidence of unemployment, especially among the educated persons as reflected by the live register maintained by the employment exchanges in Kerala has been a matter of serious concern of all concerned. The total number of employment seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in the state has increased from 24.57 lakhs at the end of March 1985 to 25.32 lakhs at the end of March 1986. Among the total registrants the proportion of persons having matriculation standard and above is 53.2% and that of women constitutes 45.3%. To those who accept these figures as an indicator of the level of unemployment in the State it gives a frightening picture. Since there is no reliable figures based on appropriate surveys conducted in this regard it is found practically impossible to make a factual assessment of the exact unemployment situation of the state. Moreover seeing the sizeable number of rural unemployed persons who do not usually care to utilise the services of employment exchanges it is felt that the actual size of unemployment may be higher than that indicated by the live register of the employment exchanges. It is also believed that the assessment made on the basis of the figures in the books of employment exchange may not be realistic as a sizeable number of registrants later turn to be students, housewives, old persons etc. This fact was brought to light through some of the sample surveys conducted by this department. For instance the number of unemployed according to the Housing and Employment Survey 1980 was only 14.0 lakhs while the number of registrants in the live register was 15.8 lakhs during the same year. Since special survey every year is not a feasible proportion to study unemployments. It was thought how best the employment exchange data can advantageously be used to measure the actual level of unemployment in the State.

It was therefore, suggested to conduct a quick pilot study to get an insight into the composition of the registrants so as to bring about the limitations if any in utilising the figures in the live register of employment exchanges for assessing the unemployment level of the state. As such it was decided to conduct the pilot enquiry among the registrants of the Trivandrum employment exchange and it was carried out in December 1986. Encouraged by the results of that sample survey it was decided to conduct similar surveys in Palghat and Ernakulam districts too and were carried out there in May 1987 by the Department of Economics & Statistics. The present report deals with the survey of Employment Exchange Palghat.

2. Objects of the Survey

The objects of the survey were:-

- (1) To obtain an idea of the actual employment status of the registrants in the live register of the district employment exchange, Palghat.
- (2) To develop a methodology for a larger survey to be taken up at the various employment exchanges.

3. Plan of the Survey

The survey was conducted by selecting 200 registrants from the live register using systematic sampling method. The residential addresses of the selected persons were then copied down and they were contacted in person to ascertain by probing questions whether they have any job and if not what they are doing. It was found that the informants contacted were generally hesitant to divulge any information regarding their employment status suspecting that the enquiry is to verify the information furnished by them at the time of registration. It was therefore decided to follow a new approach by collecting employment information from all the members of the households including the registrants under study as in the case of a household survey. (A specimen form used for the survey is given as appendix.)

4. Size and composition of the live register

The live register of employment exchange, Palghat in which the names and addresses of the registrants seeking jobs are entered contain 1.8 lakhs persons as on 1-1-1987. Using linear systematic sampling method two hundred registrants were selected, of which 130 were males and 70 were females. The address, educational qualification, year of registration and register number as given in the card of the selected registrants were then noted down.

5. Data collection and tabulation

The selected addresses were found widely scattered in the taluk. The information required as per the prescribed schedule was collected by personnel interview of the selected addresses by the regular investigators of the department who attended to this work in addition to their normal duties. The data thus collected were tabulated at the District Statistical Office under the supervision of Deputy Director.

6. Results of the survey

The sample of 200 registrants selected out of 1.8 lakh is very small in size to make any generalisation. Out of this 200 selected addresses only 170 could be located. The remaining were not available at their addresses since the given addresses were either temporary and of their friends and relatives. The duration of waiting time of the sample registrants is given in the table below.

Waiting time in years	Percentage of registrants by educational standard		
	Below SSLC	SSLC & above	All
More than 16 years	--	1.0	1.0
12 to 16 years	17.0	8.0	11.0
8 to 11 years	24.0	12.0	18.0
4 to 7 years	23.0	28.0	26.0
2 to 3 years	18.0	18.0	18.0
less than 2 years	18.0	33.0	26.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

7. Activity status of job seekers

Among the persons located 37% have some kind of employment 73% of the already employed are still seeking better employment since their present jobs are either temporary or low paid. About 63% of the registrants are actually without work and it is inclusive of students, and housewives. In normal cases the students and housewives are not included among the unemployed category. The percentage of students and housewives come to the extent of 17 when they are excluded the actual unemployed will be 46% only.

Activity status of the registrants

Present activity of registrants	No. in the sample	Percentage
A. Employed persons		
i. having permanent or regular job	14	8.2
ii. Self employed	3	1.8
iii. Employed but actively seeking better employment	45	26.5
Sub-total I	62	36.5
B. Persons without employment		
i. Students	22	12.9
ii. Housewives	8	4.7
iii. Without any occupation	78	45.9
Sub-total II	108	63.5
C. Persons located	170	100

8. Age & educational standard of the registrants

While conducting enquiries on the present activity of the registrants it was also attempted together information about their educational attainment of those reported as unemployed. The tabulated results are given in the following table.

Distribution of unemployed persons by age & educational qualifications

Educational qualification	age in years					ALL
	upto 20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41 & above	
Below SSLC	4	23	23	14	6	70
SSLC & above without degree						
(i) without any technical qualification	22	26	8	9	2	67
(ii) with technical qualification	2	10	3	9	--	24
Graduation & above	--	3	1	5	--	9
All	28	62	35	37	8	170

It is seen that while 59% of the unemployed have passed SSLC or higher examinations only 14% have any technical qualification. Nearly 26% of the unemployed are more than 30 years old.

9. Cost of the survey

No addition of cost was incurred either for the field work or for the office work of this study. Since the sample size was so small the regular staff of the department could attend to this work along with their normal duties.

10. Conclusion

While analysing the findings of the study the following conclusions are arrived at:-

1. The live register of the employment seekers maintained at the employment exchanges does not reveal the actual unemployment level of the State. This is because in addition to the really unemployed the live register contain (i) casual and low paid workers seeking better jobs (ii) persons who do not care to cancel registration after securing employment (iii) students and housewives (iv) old and diseased persons and (v) persons who have migrated from the area. This being the position, to assess the real unemployment level the some of the above mentioned five categories of registrants in the live register should be excluded.
2. There is a tendency among the students and housewives to get their names registered in the employment exchanges for making themselves eligible to get the unemployment dole on completion of the third year of registration. Hence the tendency to maintain their name in the live register is on the increase.
3. Reliable estimates of the level of unemployment can be prepared through carefully designed surveys only in which household approach is to be adopted.
4. As the registrants are scattered all over the area covered by the respective employment exchange, locating the sample registrants will be both time consuming and expensive. Therefore while a sample survey is designed using the live register due weight should be given to these two aspects.

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SURVEY OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

I. Identification particulars

1. Sampling Sl.No. :
 2. Town/panchayat :
 3. Ward :
 4. House No. :
5. Address of household :
6. Name & signature of Investigator :

II. Particulars of household members

Sl. No.	Name	Sex Male-1 Female-2	Age (completed years)	Present occupation (see foot note)		If employed (whether job regular) Yes/No	If no in col.7 no. of days worked last 365 days	If employed whether seeking any other job (yes/no)	If yes in col.9 reason for seeking another job	Whether currently registered in employment exchange (If yes, year of registration)
				Description	Code					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Col. 5 & 6

- (a) Employed : Cultivator-1; Agricultural labourer-2; Other casual labourer-3; Self employed in industry, trade, hotels etc.-4; Employee in industry, trade, hotels etc.-5; Unpaid helper in family enterprises-6; Others (specify)-7.
- (b) Unemployed seeking work - 8
- (c) Not in labour force- Student-9;
- Col. 10 : Reason for seeking better job
 Present job not secure-1;
 Poor relationship with employer-5; Not commensurate with qualification-6; Change of residence-7; Others (specify)-8.
- Housewife-10; Pensioner/retired, etc.-11; Others-12.
 Remuneration low-3; Low job satisfaction-4;

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