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B.Tech, MBA, Ph.D holders make a beeline for clerical jobs

MALAPPUAM : When Muhammed Suhail joined a business management course in 2013 in a mid-ranked college in Kochi, he expected that in two years' time he would be working with a company overseas, drawing a high salary.

Suhail passed the course last year without a single job offer. For over the next one year, he has applied for thousands of jobs online, talked to a good number of human resources people and attended many interviews. All that counted for nothing.

And it was then he decided to join a coaching class for Public Service Commission (PSC) to earn a clerical job. Suhail was not alone as he was joined by a countless MBA, engineering and PhD holders looking to clear PSC test for a low paying government job.

“It is not that a government job is my last hope. But at the moment, it is the only option,” he says. “My friends too have followed suit especially when all their efforts to land a job abroad brought them no results.”

With job openings ever harder to come by and job market looking congested more people hope that getting through a PSC test would help them kick-start a career. For many, the key attraction to low-paying government jobs is that it is the only way out.

“I have a Ph.D in economics. But in a saturated job market even this would not guarantee me a job. From SSLC students to engineers, MBA holders and those who have cleared National Eligibility Test (NET) are now flocking to the Public Service Commission training centres,” says Musthafa M, who is taking a training class at a private institute in Kottakal.

The swelling numbers in eight training centres in the district underscores the trend. As per the data more than 3,000 job aspirants have applied for training in the eight institutes across the district. Sources say that a majority of the applicants are either MBA or engineering graduates.

“We have a 50 per cent more admission this year than the previous year. A 50 per cent of them are either business management and engineering graduates. These students are ready to do even office assistant or

clerical jobs,” says K Abdul Razak, principal of Coaching Centre for Muslim Youth in Ponnani. Praveen K Prabhakaran, a mechanical engineering graduate who took the LD clerk test last year says he gave a try to PSC after all his attempts to find a job failed in private sector. The mass returns from the Gulf countries also aided the trend.

There are three main PSC government-aided training institutes - at Vengara, Ponnani, and Perinthalmanna,” in the district. Besides, five sub centres and a few private institutes also offer training to job-seekers.

The Vengara institute has given admissions to 600 students this year, whereas Ponnani and Perinthalmanna have got over 1,000 applicants. As per the figures, the sub-centres also have accommodated nearly 2,000 students.