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Job-skill mismatch leaving many without work in state: Survey

HYDERABAD: Much of the unemployment in the state can be attributed to non-availability of jobs matching education or work experience, the just released fifth annual employment-unemployment survey said. The survey revealed how the mismatch in the labour market rendered even highly qualified individuals jobless.

The survey, conducted by the Union ministry of labour and employment between April and December 2015, gauged the status of employment covering 19,700 persons above 15 years of age in 4,423 households in the state.

The report, released on September 15, underscored how among every 1,000 persons, 869 graduates and 917 post-graduates were unemployed because of non-availability of jobs matching their education or skills. If this not enough, 770 households have no salaried persons at all.

"The mismatch is clearly visible in the market as several engineers, who constitute a chunk of unemployed youth, end up doing jobs in fields other than their own. This is because there is a huge gap between skill set and employment available in the market due to which many youth end up spending additional amounts at training centres," said Ashok Kumar, placement officer at a private engineering college.

The survey also showed that Telangana is second, after Andhra Pradesh, in terms of casual labour with 43.4 per cent persons involved in public works which are sponsored by government or local bodies such as construction of roads, digging of ponds, relief measures (such as flood, drought, famine relief) and also under various employment generation schemes under poverty alleviation programmes.

While the Telangana government's decision to regularise contract employees in the state has invited criticism, the survey goes to show how the state is one among the top five states with the highest number of employed persons working without a written contract. The survey states that 887 in every 1,000 persons in Telangana work under no written job contract.

Several employers do away with modalities and standards of the Labour Act by hiring youth on contract basis. The contract system has is gnawed away at the current employment process.

Through the system, the employers get all the work done from the candidate and fail to provide himher with the employment benefits," said Rajender Samala, former deputy commisioner, labour department.

Standing testimony to Samala's statement are figures in the report which reveal that only 149 in every 1,000 persons in Telangana get paid leave and avail social security benefits. Only 151 in every 1,000 persons receive provident fund or pension. Health care and maternity benefits along with PFpension are also given to only 104 in every 1,000 persons.

The survey also reveals that submitting an application in response to an advertisement and getting a job through friends and relatives are the most sought after approach among the unemployed youth in the state. As far as salaries are concerned, the average salary earned by youth in Telangana falls in the range of Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000 per month, with 249 in every 1,000 households earning an average salary of Rs 5,001 to Rs 7,500 and 104 earning Rs 20,001 to Rs 50,000..