

# Unemployment and Women Education

SHARMILA THINGBAIJAM\* AND THAITHUILU THAIMEI\*\*

---

## Abstract

---

*Education is a very important tool for human resource development particularly women education. The significance of the study is to highlight the unemployment rate among women, their causes and effect in the day-to-day life of the people of Ragailong. In the present study an attempt is made to explain the literacy and unemployment rate of the women of Ragailong. It also highlighted that most of the married women though educated and qualified are deprived from working and finding a job because of their responsibility to the family. From the study, it was found that educationally and socially, the present condition and status of the people of Ragailong village has improved and developed a lot in comparison to the past, as the literacy and employment rates are found to be high in the village but it is definitely high time for all the people to give self-employment a prominent place in the society rather than waiting for the government job offers. Also, both women and men should be given equal rights and freedom to freely choose the job they wish to pursue to aid in women development and empowerment.*

---

## INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is defined as a situation when a person who is actively searching for employment and is unable to find work. Unemployment is a key social and economic indicator because it signals the ability of workers to readily obtain gainful work to contribute to the productive

output of the economy and the dignity of labour force. Number of more unemployed workers means less total economic production will take place than might have otherwise. This means that the economy with high unemployment has lower output without a proportional decline in the need for basic consumption. The

---

\* Assistant Professor, Department of Adult Continuing Education and Extension, MU

\*\* 4th Semester, M.A., Department of ACEE, MU

unemployment rate is one of the most widely quoted issues nowadays, and is an important market indicator providing information and status of voluntary labour. Unemployment is categorised as voluntary and involuntary unemployment. Voluntary unemployment occurs when a person, who is fit to work in a specific job role quits his job willingly, either in the search for better work opportunities or any other reasons even when a suitable job option is still available to him in the market. On the contrary, involuntary unemployment occurs when a person do not get work even though he is a fit for the specific job or position and also has the will to work. (Liat, 2000). In Manipur, the number of unemployed persons in the state is nearing the 7 akhs mark as the current number stands at 6,86,568 lakhs according to the data provided by the Employment Exchange, Manipur. Of the total number, male job seekers are 4,96,743 lakhs while 1,89,8251 akhs are female (Shushil, 2016).

According to the district ratio in district level, a total of 2, 22,007 lakhs are there in Imphal West district, of which 1,54,146 lakhs are male and 67,861 thousand are female. In Imphal East district a total number of 1,01,771 are job seekers, of which 72, 837 are male and 28,938 are female. In Thoubal district, the total number is 1,04,937 lakhs, of which 82,970 are male and 21,967 are female. In Bishnupur district the total number is 63,279 of which 47,141 are male and 16,138 are

female. In the hill districts there are a total of 61,919 thousand job seekers of which 46,108 are male and 15,811 thousands female in Churachandpur district. In Ukhrul districts there are 19,044 male job seekers and 8,274 female job seekers with a total of 27,318. In Senapati district, the total number is 50,929 thousand, of which 36,884 are male and 14,078 are female. In Tamenglong district, there are 20,932, of which 15,929 are male and 5,003 are female. In Chandel district there are 17,314 male and 4,002 female with a total of 25,316 job seekers. For the remaining new districts datas are found to be are inadequate. In the physically challenged category, out of the total 2,379 1614 are male and 766 female, and in University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau UEIGB, there are total of 5,744 thousand of which 17,56 are male and 1,988 female (Kangla, 2011).

The study is confined to Ragailong Village which is situated in Imphal East district of Manipur under Porompat Sub-Division, Iribung Block and under the jurisdiction of Imphal East Police Station and Imphal East Post Office. The village is surrounded by Khuman Lampak sports complex in the East, Naga River and 2nd Battalion Manipur Rifles in the West, Namdulong in the South and Assam Rifle Transit Camp and Commando Complex in the North.

Before 1891, there were clusters of Rongmei families scattered over the present-day Johnston Hr. Sec

School, GM Hall and the Old Manipur Legislative Assembly complex, called Bajanam (Royal Band Party Colony), Singsaloi (Firewood supplier colony) and Phousukhun (colony of rice pounding or milling), in service to the King of Manipur. After the defeat of Anglo Manipur War of 1891, Manipur came under the British colonial paramountcy. And the erstwhile Rongmei families were ordered to evacuate the vicinity of the British political agency residence. Thus, seven families who were earlier living at Bajanam (Band party colony) founded the Ragailong village at Khuman pat (now Khuman Lampak or Khuman Lampak sports complex) in 1891. The great Imphal flood of 1928, in which Ragailong suffered untold misery due to the breaking of embankment (near the present-day suspension bridge between Khuman Lampak and Khurai/Telipati) and deluge of the entire village, the villagers decided to move to a more elevated ground and a safer place. Thus, they shifted to the present-day location (Karangchonglu Kamei, 2018)

The inhabitants of Ragailong village were the Rongmei tribe speaking Rongmei language. The village has a system of chieftainship. There is a primary school called Minuthong Kabui Upper Primary School, and a high school known as Brighter English School. There is a Community Hall, Ragailong Museum Ground, Women Society Building and a Youth Club Building. There is also a pond known as Mijum Pukhri

by the villagers. Ragailong village comprises of 223 households, having a population of 1004 with 444 males and 560 females according to the survey report.

### **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Unemployment leads to wastage of manpower resources. People who are assets for the economy get termed into liability due to increased unemployment rate. There is a feeling of hopelessness and despair among the people. Unemployment tends to increase economic overload. The dependence of the unemployed on the working population increased. The quality of life of an individual as well as the society is adversely affected. The significance of the study is that it can highlight the unemployment rate among women, there causes and effect in the day-to-day life of the people of Ragailong. Understanding more about unemployment would lead to a better knowledge about making oneself self-employed. In order to know the social and economic status, and also to find out the literacy and unemployment rate of Ragailong village the study is quite necessary.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the Study are:

- (i) To find out literacy rate and unemployment rate.
- (ii) To study the causes and effect of unemployment among women.

### **HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

The following are the hypothesis of the study:

H1: The overall literacy rate of the women is satisfactory.

H2: The number of unemployed women is low.

H3: The number of married unemployed is higher than the unmarried unemployed.

### **DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The present study is limited only for women among the age group 25–35 years in Ragailong village, Imphal East district of Manipur.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The method adopted in the present study is a survey method, and the investigator has taken 1004 population of Ragailong village, Imphal East. Out of this, 560 are female of whom 163 are of the age group between 25–35 years. 50 women were selected as samples of the study. For the purpose of the present study, interview schedule had been used to collect the required data from the women among the age group of

25–35 years as it was thought to be a more flexible tools for collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. In order to analyse and interpret the data, the investigator had adopted the percentage statistical technique.

### **ANALYSIS**

The investigator made an attempt to analyse and interpret the data selected for the present unemployed rate of women among the age group of 25–35 years in Ragailong village, Imphal East, Manipur. According to the scope of the study, 50 women were interviewed. Responses of the women were collected regarding the literacy, unemployment and the cause and effect faced by the unemployed women. The total population of male and female in the age group 25–35 years in Ragailong village is 309, where 146 are males and 163 are females. It shows that the number of females are higher than that of males in the village, and maximum numbers of women are literate.

**Table 1**  
**Number and percentages of the educational attainment levels of women in Ragailong between the age group 25–35 years**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Levels of Education</b>	<b>No. of Women</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Illiterate	3	6%
2.	Simply literate	4	8%
3.	Matriculate	11	22%
4.	Hr. Secondary	6	12%
5.	Graduate	20	40%
6.	Post Graduate	6	12%
Total		50	100%

Table 1 shows the educational attainment levels and the percentages. At the graduate level there are 20 women, and 11 women at the matriculation level, while at the post graduate and higher secondary level there are 6 women each respectively, and 4 women are simply literate and 3 illiterate women in the village.

From the above analysis, it is found that maximum number of women are literate. Therefore, the overall literacy rate of the women is satisfactory and accepted.

From the above table, it is found that the number of unemployed women is lower than that of employed women, and number of married unemployed women is higher than the unmarried unemployed women.

Table 3 shows the different opinion of women and their views about the causes of unemployment. The data indicated that according to 6 per cent of the women unemployment is because of economic recession, 22 per cent due to increased birth rate,

**Table 2**  
**Total number and percentage of employed and Unemployed Women along with their Marital Status**

S.No.	Current Status	No. of Women	Percentage	Marital Status		Total
				Married	Unmarried	
1.	Employed	31	62%	8	23	31
2.	Unemployed	19	38%	12	7	19
TOTAL		50	100%	20	30	50

Table 2 shows the current status and percentage of employed and unemployed women in the village. And it also shows their marital status. There are 31 employed women and 19 unemployed women. The table also shows that there are 8 married employed women and 23 unmarried employed women. There are 12 married unemployed women and 7 unmarried women.

10 per cent because of increasing technology, 48 per cent due to illiteracy and 14 per cent due to other reasons.

Thus, the above analysis shows that the main cause of unemployment is illiteracy, i.e., 48 per cent of the women under study affirmed the highest percentage to illiteracy as compare to other causes of unemployment.

**Table 3**  
**Cause of Unemployed**

S.No.	Causes	No. of Women	Percentage
1.	Economic recession	3	6%
2.	Increase birth rate	11	22%

3.	Increasing technology	5	10%
4.	Illiteracy	24	48%
5.	Others	7	14%
TOTAL		50	100%

### MAIN FINDINGS

In the light of the objectives, hypothesis, data analysis and interpretations of the study, the investigator has summed up the main findings of the study in the following manner.

- From the selected sample, the literacy rate of the women was high.
- Women have mostly attained the post graduate level of educational qualification.
- The employment rate was high among the women between the age group of 25–35 years in Ragailong Village.
- The rate of unemployment among the married women was higher than the unmarried women.
- The number of employed women was higher among the unmarried women than the married women.
- Illiteracy was the main cause of unemployment.
- Financial problem and social inferiority among their social group was the main effect of unemployment.
- The women of Ragailong village are ambitious and industrious people.

### CONCLUSION

In the broadest sense, employment of women is a must for the empowerment of the women in particular. Most

of the married women of Ragailong though educated and qualified are deprived from working and finding a job because of their responsibility towards their family. From the study it was found that educationally and socially, the present condition and status of the people of Ragailong village has improved and developed a lot as compared to the past, as the literacy and employment rates are found to be high in the village. And it may also be noted that increased in the literacy rate and competition among job seekers are the main reasons behind unemployment. To cope with the present situation of unemployment in the village, the government and other agencies needs to come up with new schemes providing job opportunities equally to both male and female. It is quite important that an effort should be made to change the negative attitudes of the society toward working women. It is high time for all the people to give self-employment a prominent place in the society rather than waiting for the government jobs. Lastly, both women and men should be given equal rights and freedom to freely choose the job and work that they want to get themselves employed with.

### SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of the above findings, the following suggestions have been put forward for consideration—

- Women literacy should be necessary to encourage in attaining full literacy among the women.
- Employment among women particularly married women should be encouraged for better confidence and financial stability.
- Women should be made self-employed through functional literacy.
- Proper awareness should be given about the importance of employment among the people.
- There is quite a need for rapid expansion of public and private sector jobs.
- Various job facilities should be made available, and educated youths should also be encouraged to seek jobs outside of the district as well as outside of the state.
- Self-service group and self-employment service should be strengthened by ensuring more participation of the people in different workforce.
- Different kind of study can be done more elaborately for further improvement.

### REFERENCE

- KAMEI, KARANCHONGLU. 2018. A study on the Present Infrastructural Facilities of Secondary Schools in Imphal with Special Reference to Thangmeiband Constituency.
- KANGLA ONLINE. 2011. Unemployment Rate Nearing 7 Lakhs ([kanglaonline.com/2011/03/unemployment-rate-nearing-7-lakhs/](http://kanglaonline.com/2011/03/unemployment-rate-nearing-7-lakhs/)).
- LAVRINOVICHA. 2015. Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences: Influence of Education on Unemployment Rate and Incomes of Residents. Vol. 174, pp. 3824–3831. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com>pii>).
- LIAT, KULIK. 2000. Women Faced Unemployment: A Comparative Analysis of Age Groups. *Journal Carrier Development*. Vol. 27, No. 1. pp. 15–33).
- SHARMA, SUSHIL KUMAR. 2016. Educated Unemployment and Insurgency in Manipur: Issues and Recommendations. <https://www.economicshelp.org>.