

RSETI: A Great Hope for Rural Unemployed Youths in India, Case from Telangana

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ABSTRACT

Unemployment in India is an issue as with the increase of educated persons, employment opportunities have not been increasing at the same pace. Unemployment rate in India averaged around 7.32 percent from 1983 to 2013 reached an all-time high of 9.40 percent in 2009 but reduced to 4.90 percent in 2013. Again the rate shot up to a five-year high of 5 per cent in 2015-16. According to the Fifth Annual Employment-unemployment Survey at all-India level, about 77 per cent of the households had no regular wage/salaried person. In view of this, to tackle the issue of unemployment, self-employment is best alternative as wage-employment cannot be provided to all. The role played by RSETI in full form it means Rural Self Employment Training Institute has been doing laudable work as youths who are willing to take up self-employment are supported by RSETI where lakhs of youth were provided with self-employment

venture. In this article, four cases based on Telangana are presented here.

Keywords: BPL, Income, RSETI, Self-employment and Unemployment.

Unemployment situation in India:

Unemployment in India is an issue as with the increase of population in general educated in particular population, employment opportunities have not been increasing at the same pace. It is pertinent to mention that in India, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate in India hovered around 7.32 percent from 1983 to 2013 reached an all-time high of 9.40 percent in 2009 but drastically scaled down to record low of 4.90 percent in 2013. Again unemployment rate shot up to a five-year high of 5 per cent in 2015-16, with the figure significantly higher at 8.7 per cent for female as compared to 4.3 per cent for male

(Indian Express , 29/9/16). Further as per the news item, by referring the Fifth Annual Employment-unemployment Survey at all-India level, about 77 per cent of the households had no regular wage/salaried person (*ibid*). To tackle the issue of unemployment, self-employment is best alternative as wage-employment cannot be provided to all, where educational qualification also matters. In this regard, the role played by RSETI which stands for Rural Self Employment Training Institute has been doing commendable work as youths who are willing to take up self-employment are meticulously supported by RSETI, henceforth only RSETI will be used. And the data reveal 13 lakh youths have been settled through self-employment after undergoing training in different RSETIs. In this article four cases based on Telangana are presented here. It may be mentioned here that RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and the respective State Government.

Before discussing the cases, Muhammad Yunus's view (the Nobel laureate) about importance of self-employment is presented in nutshell. Prof. Yunus in his book 'Banker to the Poor' has highlighted some advantages of self-employment over wage employment.

1. The hours are flexible and can adapt to fit any family situation. It allows people to choose between running a business full-time or part-time when they need to meet crises, or to put their business on hold and work full-time for a salary.
2. Self-employment is tailor-made for anyone who is street-smart and has many acquired from books and technical schools. This means the illiterate and the poor can exploit their strengths, rather than be held back by their weaknesses
3. It allows a person to turn hobbies they enjoy into gainful employment.
4. It can help those who have found a job and are still nonetheless poor.
5. The average cost of creating a self-employment job is ten, twenty or hundred times cheaper than creating an employment job.

About RSETI:

As mentioned already RSETIs are managed by the Banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments. As per the statistics, there are 585 RSETIs in the country where around 21 lakh youths have been trained of which 13 lakh have been settled (RSETI/29/3/2017). Almost every district is having RSETI and based on RUDSETI (Rural Development and Self

Employment Training Institute), a society established jointly by three agencies i.e. Syndicate Bank, Canara Bank and Sri *Manjunatheswara* Trust based at *Ujire* in Karnataka, RSETI concept has been launched in the country. In case of RSETI, Lead Bank of each district has been entrusted for creating and managing it. The Government of India provides one - time grant up to a maximum of Rs. 1 crore for meeting the expenditure on construction of building and other infrastructure. After successful completion of the training, interested youths are provided with credit by the bank to start their venture.

Each RSETI offers 30 to 40 skill development programmes in a financial year in various avenues and in each batch 25-30 youths are selected for training. The programmes are of short duration ranging from 1 to 6 weeks and as example few trades are mentioned below:

- Agricultural Programmes – agriculture and allied activities like dairy, poultry, apiculture, horticulture, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, floriculture, fisheries, etc
- Product Programme – dress designing for men and women, *rexine* articles, incense sticks manufacturing, football making, bag,

bakery products, leaf cup making, recycled paper manufacturing, etc.

- Process Programmes – two wheeler repairs, radio/TV repairs, motor rewinding, electrical transformer repairs, irrigation pump-set repairs, tractor and power tiller repairs, cell phone repairs, beautician course, photography and videography, screen printing, domestic electrical appliances repair, computer hardware and DTP.
- General Programmes – skill development for women
- Other Programmes – related to other sectors like leather, construction, hospitality and any other sector depending on local requirements.

The youths are selected based on some criteria such as at least 70 percent of the trainees should be from the rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) category certified by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Proper weightage is given to SC/STs, minorities, physically challenged and women.

Youths after RSETI training Settled-Cases from Telangana:

In this section, four cases depicting the youths who after training settled are presented. All the cases are from *Nizamabad* district of Telangana and data are based on

2016-17. Before presenting the cases few lines about *Nizamabad* district are presented here.

The geographical area of this district (before reorganized) was 7956 square kilometers *i.e.* 14.02 percent of the state. The district had population of 25, 51,335 as per the 2011 census (telangana.gov.in/About/Districts/Nizamabad/29/03/2017). It may be mentioned that in 2006 the Government of India categorized *Nizāmābād* as one of the 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640 districts of that time). Average literacy in the district was not high as the same was 61.25 percent against male literacy of 71.47 and female literacy of 51.54.

Case 1:

Sri A. *Ravinder* studied up to Intermediate level belongs to BPL family prior to the training sponsored by RSETI as his father was agriculture labour. With this academic background he instead of searching wage-employment he decided to start self-employment. When he came to know about local RSETI from his friends and well-wishers he contacted State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) RSETI and opted for multi phone servicing trade and accordingly he was trained from 13 MAY to 12 June

2015. Subsequently, he setup a cell phone repairing shop with his own money under the umbrella of “*Manjunatha Mobiles & Xerox, Hardware & Software*” at *Domakonda* village and on an average he was earning to the tune of Rs. 10,000.00 per month.

Case 2:

Sri J. Vijay Kumar studied up to high school level is from *Nyalkal* village, *Nizamabad mandal* of *Nizamabad* district. Like earlier case he also hails from a farmer family but father was insisting him to earn as family income was paltry to maintain. In view of this, he discontinued his study. When he came to know about RSETI through his friends he immediately approached and opted to join in multi phone servicing training programme which was held from 7 October 2013 to 12 November 2013. On completion of training he established a mobile shop as well as servicing with his own funds, in the name of “*Hadassa Mobile Point Sales & Services*” at *Jankampet Village, Yedpally Mandal*. According to him, his net income was in the range of Rs. 8000 to Rs. 10,000 per month.

Case 3:

Sri V. *Rathan* Singh is resident of *Wadepally village Yedpally mandal*. He

studied up to Intermediate level as father was farmer so could not bear his expenditure for further study. Rathan Singh like other two youths had undergone multi phone servicing training from 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2015. On completion of training, he started mobile shop including its repairing with his own money, under the banner of “*Keerthi Photo Studio & Mobiles*” at *Yedpally Village, Yedpally Mandal*. He happily informed that his earning was in between Rs. 11,500 and Rs. 12,500 per month.

Case 4:

Ms. *T.Latha* studied up to 5th standard (married woman) was from BPL family before undergoing RSETI sponsored training. Her husband was working as daily wage earner which was inadequate to sustain the family. With the intention of earning additional income she decided to start tailoring unit but she did not have sufficient prowess to run a tailoring shop as sequel she approached SBH RSETI, *Dichpally, Nizamabad* district and in 2014 (28/11/2014 to 29/12/2014) she was trained in the trade. On completion of training, she established a tailoring unit at her residence and earning was hovering around Rs. 7,000 per month which was additional income for a family.

Conclusion:

As mentioned already the secondary source reveals that lakhs youths have been trained as well as settled through self-employment under the umbrella of RSETI. And the primary source based on the study divulges the fact that RSETI has brought usher of hope to the lives of BPL rural families to survive with dignity. These four cases should not be viewed as isolated one but from 13 lakh youths they portray the reality. I am concluding from the poem which we read in the childhood,

“Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land”

References:

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