

## An Analysis of Educated Unemployed Youth in West Bengal

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines West Bengal's youth workforce's growing educated unemployment. Unemployment of graduates who cannot find work that matches their education and skills is called educated unemployment. Work is scarce as more college graduates seek employment. Recent social and economic concerns have grown around this. According to the study, fast population growth, inadequate industrial development, overreliance on government jobs, a mismatch between education and market-oriented skills, and a lack of technical and vocational training are major causes of educated unemployment in West Bengal. Economic uncertainties, technical advances, and rural-urban variations have raised college-educated youth unemployment. We also examine the psychological and social repercussions of youth unemployment. Long-term unemployment causes frustration, financial instability, social reliance, migration, and lost self-confidence. Unemployed educated women face gender discrimination and a lack of career chances in some areas. The state must promote entrepreneurship, vocational training, skill development, industrialisation, and employment-oriented educational changes to lower educated unemployment. Government youth development, digital training, and self-employment activities may enhance employability. Research demonstrates that educated unemployment in West Bengal has numerous causes and requires collaboration between the government, schools, businesses, and individuals. The state's educated youth need well-planned, balanced economic development and educational system modernisation to have sustainable career chances and better socioeconomic situations.

**Keywords:** Frustration, financial instability, social dependence, employability, socio-economic.

### INTRODUCTION

Education-related unemployment is a serious socioeconomic issue in West Bengal. It occurs when educated people with school, college, technical, or university degrees cannot find acceptable jobs. The state's growing population of educated jobless young reflects fundamental inequalities in education, economic development, and labour market needs. Over the past few decades, population growth and educational expansion have increased the number of educated young people in West Bengal. More students are pursuing secondary, graduate, and professional courses to secure employment. However,

career opportunities have not kept pace with the growing number of educated job seekers. Thus, many educated adolescents remain unemployed or underemployed for extended periods.

One of the major causes of educated unemployment in West Bengal is insufficient industrial and economic development. Compared with some other Indian states, industrial growth in several parts of West Bengal has been relatively slow. The closure of industries, limited private-sector investment, and inadequate expansion of the manufacturing sector have reduced job creation. Consequently, educated youths face intense competition for a limited number of jobs. Another important factor is the excessive dependence on government jobs. A large number of educated youths in West Bengal prefer government employment for job security, social status, and a fixed income. This has created severe competition in public-sector recruitment examinations. Since government vacancies are limited, many candidates remain unemployed despite years of preparation and educational qualifications. The mismatch between education and employable skills also contributes significantly to educated unemployment. Many educational institutions emphasise theoretical learning rather than practical and technical skills. As a result, graduates often lack professional training, communication skills, digital literacy, and industry-oriented knowledge required in modern labour markets. This skill gap reduces employability among educated youths.

## **Education**

There are three common ways to look at the word "education": by topic, by method, and by body of information. One uses the term "education" in a more restricted sense when referring to a person's level of achievement or degree. Education is employed as a subject when it is used to discipline in an institutional setting. Also, education can be understood as a process in a broader sense. In addition, the third sense, that of a process, is often used when discussing education.

The English term "education" has its roots in the Latin words "Educare" (Educere) and "Educatum," according to etymology. To educate means to mold or instruct. Developing anything from its "latent or potential existence" into a tangible form is what it means to bring it out. Educating is the process of imparting knowledge. Pedagogy and educational theory are also covered. "Siksha" in Hindi comes from the Sanskrit term "Shash," which has several meanings and applications, including discipline, control, order, direction, and rule. Providing guidance and instruction in this setting is similar to disciplining an individual (Kumar & Ahmad, 2008).

## **Employment**

A person's means of subsistence is determined by their employment, which is defined as "the act or occurrence of employing someone or something, or the condition of being employed; employ; service" in the Cambridge English Dictionary. how many people are actively working or otherwise engaged in gainful employment, in addition to any other activities, projects, or responsibilities that occupy their time.

Consequently, "employment" is to be employed or to have a job. the process of employing someone and the work that individuals do in exchange for payment. One of the most pressing societal and economic concerns is the current state of employment. Its significance lies in the fact that it influences societal stability and economic prosperity.

## **Unemployment**

Many economists have tried to understand the topic of employment and unemployment by developing their own theories. Unemployment has grown into a worldwide problem, and while it is difficult to pin down exactly what it is, it is certainly the most complex and grave of all labor difficulties (Kikhi, 2006).

The term "unemployment" was first used in 1887 by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labour Statistics to characterize workers who willingly could not find work (Clark, 2011). The inability to find gainful employment is known as unemployment (Bajpai, 1992). Unemployment is defined by Mellow (1969) as the inability to get gainful employment notwithstanding a strong desire to do so. According to him, "Unemployment is a deprivation of the opportunity to fulfil one's societal tasks for which one has been qualified by education and other endowments."

## **Educated Unemployed Youth and Deviant Behaviour**

Today's growing urbanisation has contributed to a sharp rise in deviant behaviour. Educated youth without jobs in today's economy face a difficult situation. Unemployment leaves the younger generation most vulnerable. Depression among teens is on the rise. Unemployed youth who wait months or years for jobs are a major worry. Unemployed educated youth risk losing their future and finances. Unemployed persons are more likely to endure psychological stress, including sadness and anxiety. Stress hurts their health, their families' health, and society's stability. In West Bengal, many educated individuals are unemployed.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The process of describing, illustrating, summarizing, analyzing, and evaluating data through the use of statistical and/or logical tools is comprised of the methodical process of data analysis. To comprehend, organize, and interpret the data that is provided in order to arrive at conclusions that are relevant is the process that is known as data interpretation. A pie chart or a bar chart could be among the main visualizations of the data. In this investigation, a pie chart or bar chart might be utilized.

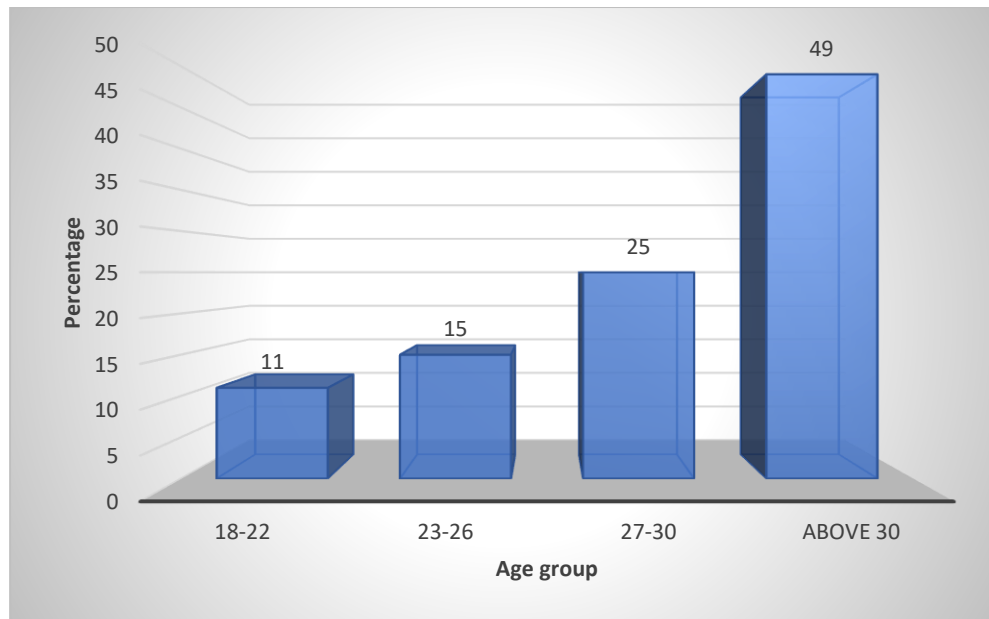
### A. Personal Information

#### 1. AGE

The age of the sample was collected from the four districts of West Bengal. The data was tabulated in organised manner.

**Table 1: Age group of unemployed youth**

Age Group	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
18-22	55	11
23-26	75	15
27-30	125	25
Above 30	245	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 1: Age group of unemployed youth**

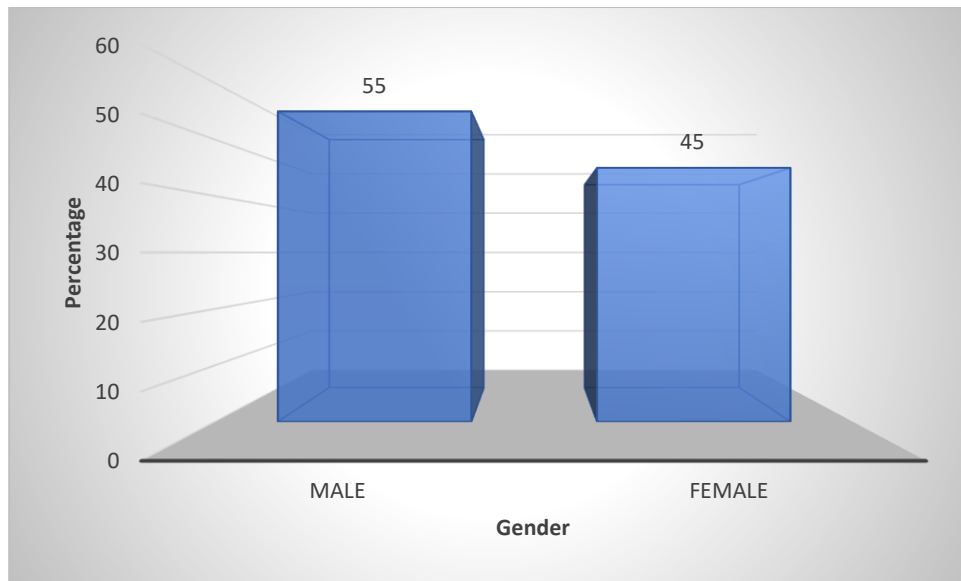
The data above shows that 18-22 yrs are 11 percent, 23-26 yrs are 15 percent, 27-30 yrs are 25 percent and above 30 yrs are 49 percent. The data shows that above 30 percent the unemployment increase more.

**2. GENDER**

The data was collected regarding gender among the respondent and it was tabulated.

**Fig 2: Gender of unemployed youth**

Gender	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Male	275	55
Female	225	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 2: Gender of unemployed youth**

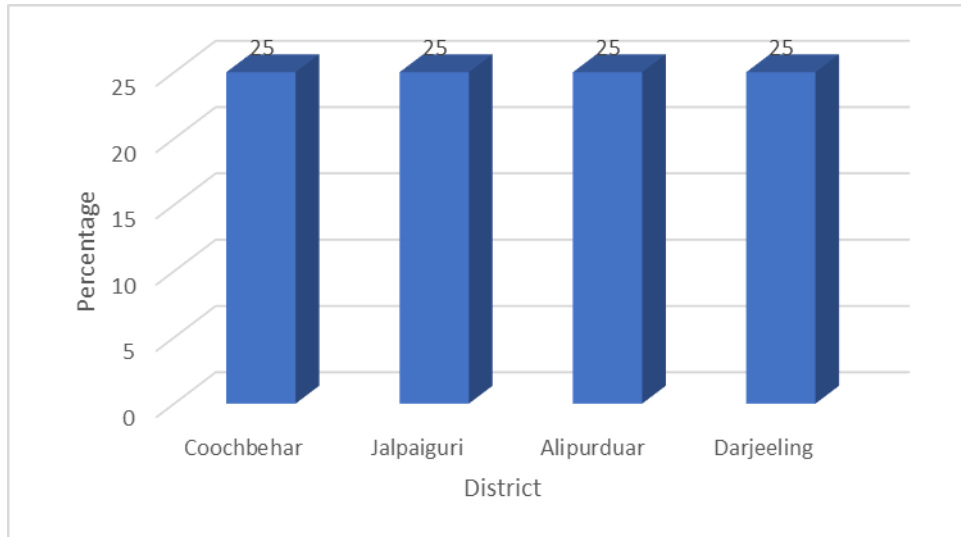
The data shows that 55 percent of the sample collected were male and 45 percent of the sample are 45 percent. The percentage of male is greater than female.

### 3. DISTRICT

The data was collected regarding districts. The sample was collected from four districts of West Bengal.

**Table 3: District of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

District	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Coochbehar	125	25
Jalpaiguri	125	25
Alipurduar	125	25
Darjeeling	125	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 3: District of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

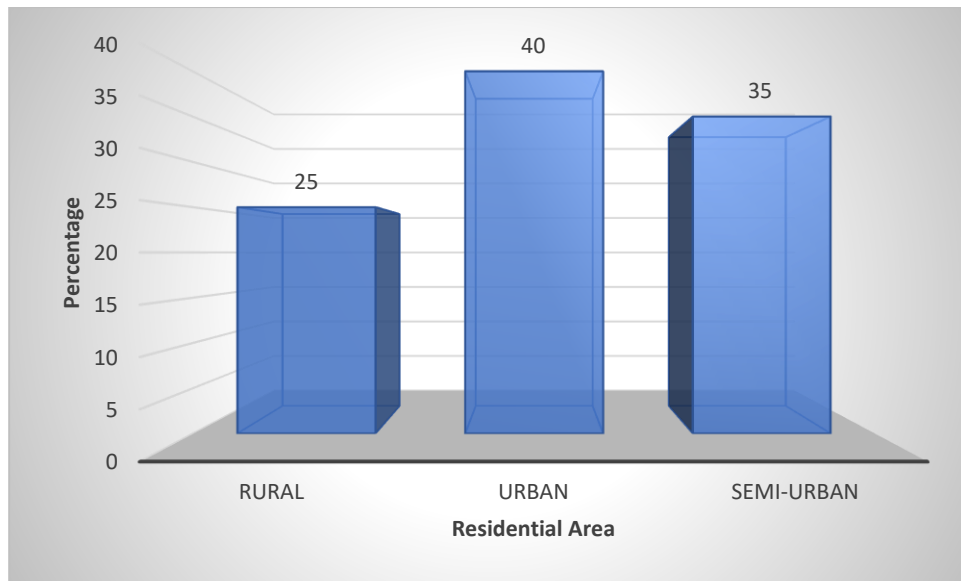
The data was collected from four districts and each of the district was representing 25 percent of the sample. Equal amount of sample was collected from four districts of West Bengal.

**4. RESIDENTIAL AREA**

The data was collected regarding residential area of the samples and it was tabulated as below.

**Table 4: Residential Area of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

Residential Area	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Rural	125	25
Urban	200	40
Semi-Urban	175	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 4: Residential Area of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

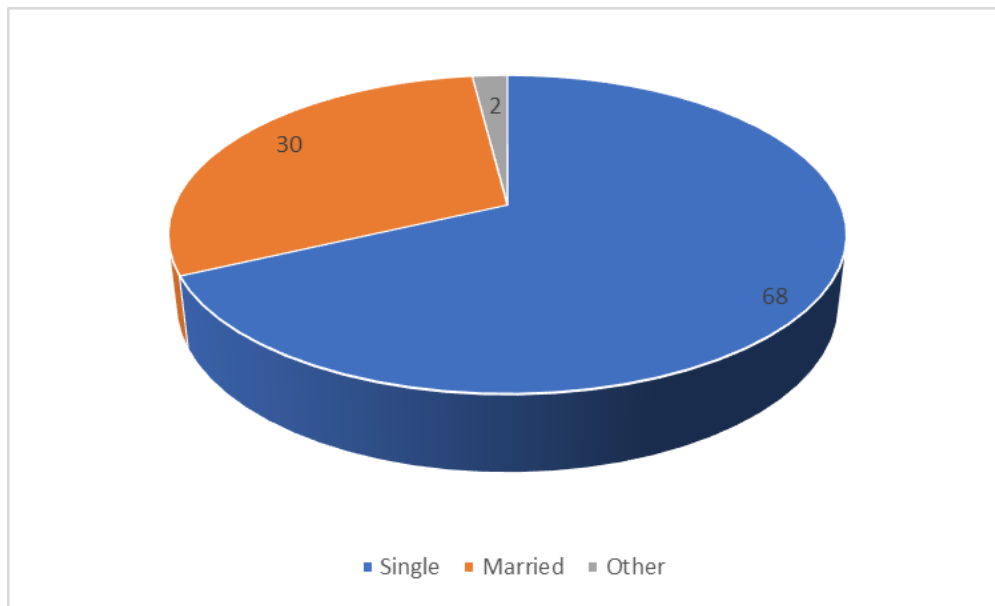
The data shows that majority of the samples stays in urban area and the percentage is 40 percent, then 35 percent of the samples stays in semi-urban area and 25 percent of the sample stays in rural area.

**5. MARITAL STATUS**

The data was collected regarding the marital status of the samples and it was tabulated as below: -

**Table 5: Table showing Marital Status of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

Marital status	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Single	340	68
Married	150	30
Other	10	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 5: Pie-chart showing Marital Status of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

The data shows that 68 percent of the sample are single, 30 percent of the sample are married and 2 percent of the sample belongs to another category. The majority of the samples are single.

## **B. Educational Background**

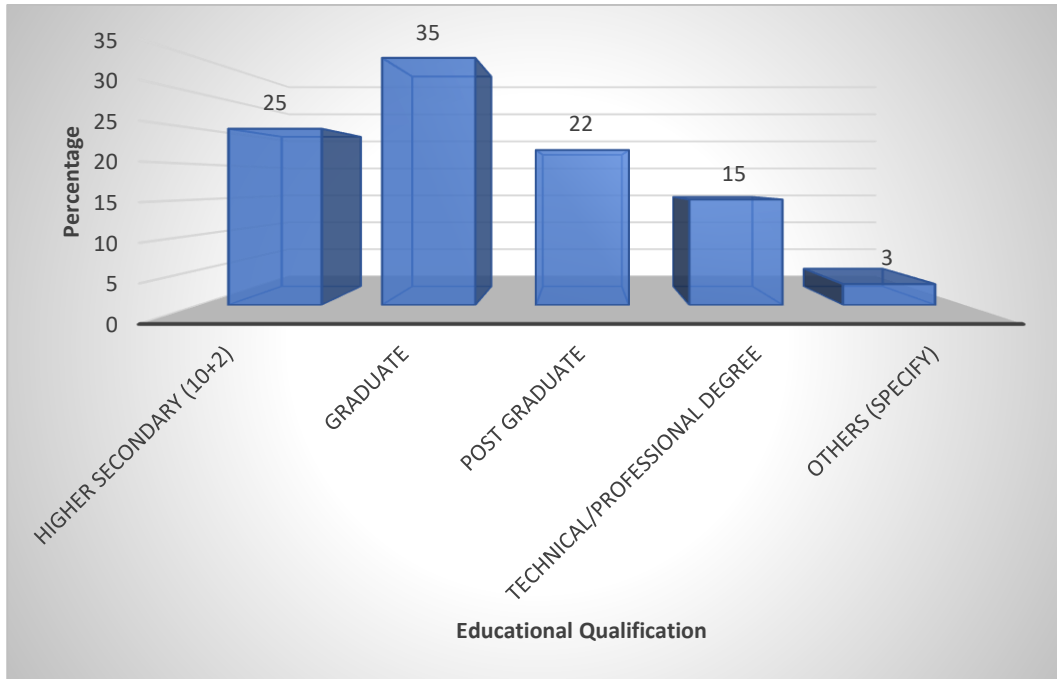
### **6. Highest Educational Qualification**

The data was collected regarding the highest educational qualification of the samples and it was tabulated as follows: -

**Table 6: Highest education of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

<b>Highest Education</b>	<b>No of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Higher Secondary (10+2)	125	25
Graduate	175	35
Post graduate	110	22

Technical/Professional Degree	75	15
Others (Specify)	15	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 6: Bar graph showing highest education of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

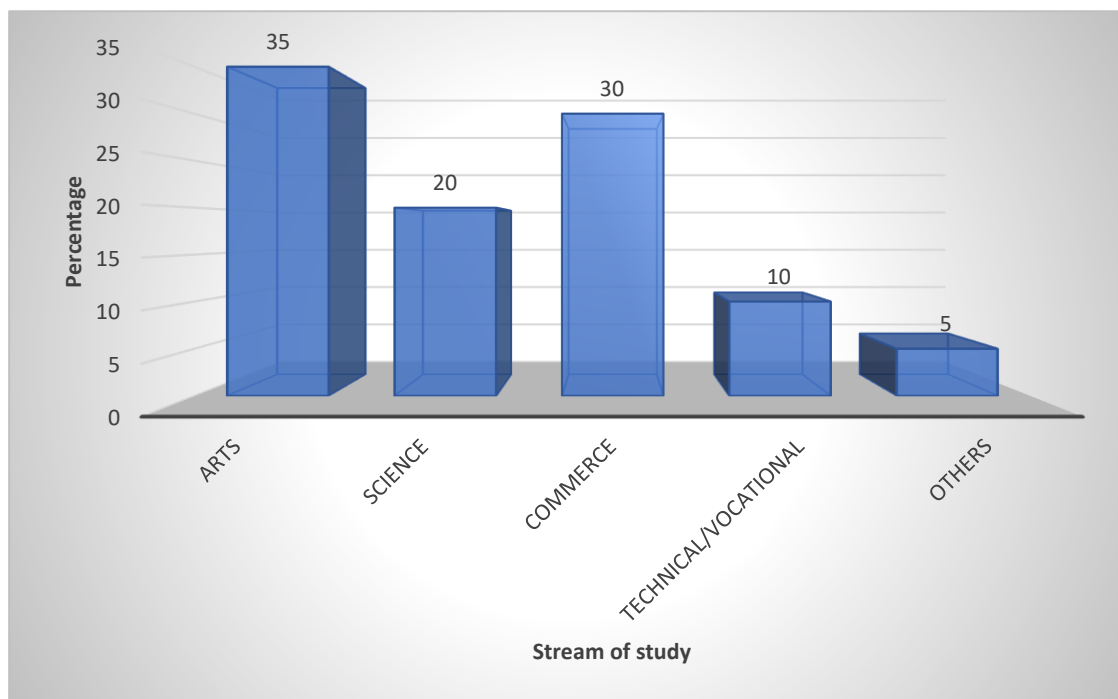
The data shows that 25 percent of the sample are higher secondary by qualification, 35 percent are graduate, 22 percent are post graduate, 15 percent are having technical/professional degree and 3 percent of the sample have other degree. The majority of them are graduate and minimum have other qualification.

**7. Stream of Study**

The data was taken regarding the stream of study of the samples. The data was tabulated as follows: -

**Table 7: Stream of study of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

Stream of Study	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Arts	175	35
Science	100	20
Commerce	150	30
Technical/Vocational	50	10
Others	25	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Fig 7: Bar graph showing stream of study of unemployed youth of West Bengal**

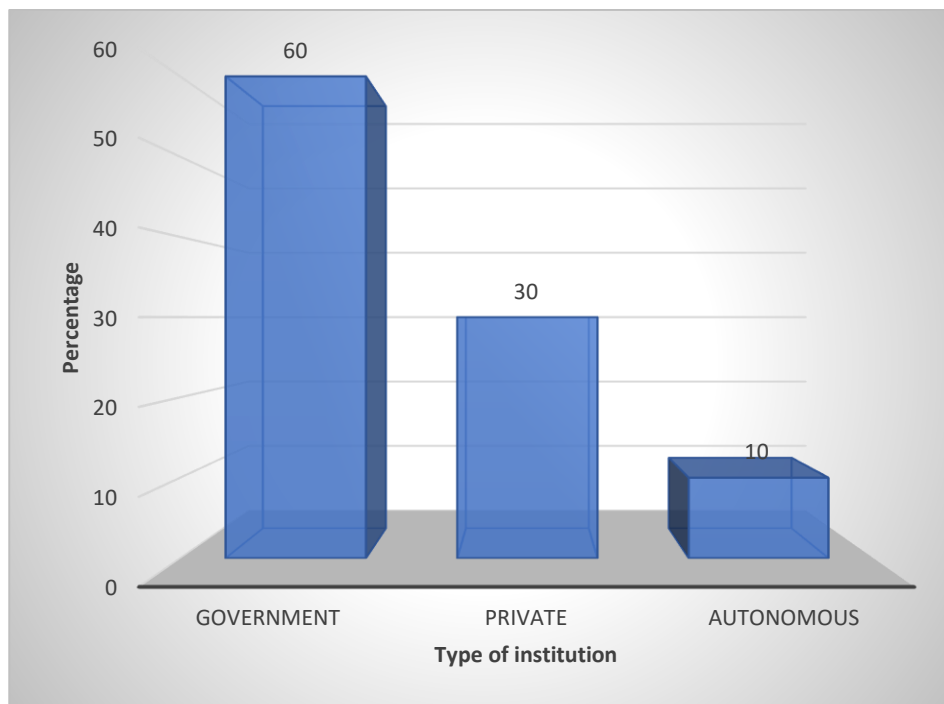
The data shows that 35 percent of the sample have studied arts, 20 percent have studied science, 30 percent studied commerce, 10 percent studied technical/vocational courses and 5 percent studied others course. The majority studied in Arts stream.

### 8. Institution Type

The data was collected regarding institution type where they studied and it was tabulated as follows :-

**Table 8: Type of institution studied by unemployed youth of West Bengal**

Institution type	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Government	300	60
Private	150	30
Autonomous	50	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 8: Type of institution studied by unemployed youth of West Bengal**

The data shows that 60 percent of the sample have studied in Government institution, 30 percent of the sample studied in private institution and 10 percent of the sample studied in autonomous institution. The majority of the sample collected studied in Government institution.

**CONCLUSION**

The state's unemployment rate has been steadily rising over the past few years. More important than the overall unemployment problem should be addressing the challenges faced by young individuals without education who are jobless. An educated but jobless youth poses a potential threat to community safety if not addressed. A variety of sociopsychological difficulties often afflict youth who have been unemployed for an extended period of time. While unemployment impacts people of all ages and backgrounds, the strong preferences and choices of young, uneducated people increase the likelihood that they will be unemployed for an extended period of time. The study undoubtedly reached out to the educated jobless youth of West Bengal.

Educated unemployment in West Bengal is a result of a severe misalignment between the state's educational system and its labour market. The number of people with degrees and the percentage of the population able to read and write have both risen sharply in recent decades, but job prospects, particularly for college-educated young people, have lagged far behind. As a result of dissatisfaction, underemployment, and migration, many young people are unable to locate jobs that are a good fit for their skills and experience. Inadequate skill development, reliance on government jobs, a lack of private sector investment, and a lack of industry-academia connectivity are the main factors that contribute to this issue. Regional imbalances and socioeconomic gaps only make matters worse.

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