



ISSN: 2249-7315

Vol. 11, Issue 9, September 2021

SJIF –Impact Factor = 8.037 (2021)

DOI: 10.5958/2249-7315.2021.00033.2

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**THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN  
INDIA AND BANGALADESH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Youth are invincible and an integral component of the core strength of civil society. Significantly, they help to promote community development. It is very critical to examine the role of youth in the socio-political context in South Asian Countries. In the post-modern era of nation building, the parameters of capital and technology are critical in maintaining the stability of youth in several domains. Irrespective of caste, gender, social and political status, instabilities are disturbing young minds, curbing their personality and creating an environment for anti-social elements to be nurtured. The disruption caused by COVID-19 has deeply impacted youth especially in areas related to education and employment. The crisis has had a negative impact on the overall development of youth, specifically in South Asian Countries. Youth employability also has reduced because of the lack of mobility in academics. Changing life styles. Standards of living and the life expectancy of youth have critically reshuffled in the pandemic. Hence, the fulfillment of the basic needs of youth is the foremost priority of the respective governments of the nations of South Asia by introducing the several programmes and initiatives. Therefore, the role of the policy makers becomes significant in youth employment. The mobility of youth given the socio-economic conditions of South Asian Countries is inevitable to the growth and development of the country.*

**KEYWORDS:** *South Asia, Employability, Covid-19, Skills, Youth's Employment, Policy Makers, Pandemic*

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**INTRODUCTION:**

As we know, the world represent by unique features of each countries in the globe. There are more than two hundred nations exist on the earth, among them Demographical and Geographical region of South Asian countries are playing a significant role at the global level, even though the neighboring countries facing many challenges by the impact of corona virus disease (COVID-19). The South Asian Countries are consisting of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and peninsular India. It includes the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Srilanka.

## ***Who are Youth's?***

As you know, Youth are pillar of the nation as well as asset of the country. They play an integral part of the all social activities of a state. Youth is a time of transition, when an individual moves from childhood to adulthood. In terms of age, in Psychology, 'youth' means an individual who is between the ages of 16 and 35. The World Youth Report (2007), Stated that the age group of the youth is from 15 to 24. This was at a time when the U.N.O. described youth as one of the human resources precious to the development of all the social sectors of a country such as responsibility, commitment and dedication to the state. Youth's have immense power to play in all social fields as Chowdhry; P.D (1988) rightly said that the "Youth for Youth, Youth for Community and Community for Youth" because the politicised of youth and mobilise them in to the politics.

The COVID-19 started as health crisis at the global level. It has human crisis suffered everyone irrespective of age, employment, region and other social matters. This global pandemic compared as the great depression during 1930s. Many of the developing countries including the south Asian countries are suffered a lot in their socio-economic fields. This is the first time in four decades among the South Asian economies shrink for this global pandemic. The steps took by the governments across the globe in order to close the borders, restrictions on transport, ordered the curfew and the lockdown their population to immensely disturb physically and mentally to the humans. The civil society threatened by the self lockdown system. The millions of workers were jobless, the crisis of inequality aroused, education, health, employment and the employability, specially for youth, women and marginal groups are affected more adversely by this pandemic. South Asia included the many of the third world countries with the more population in the global level. The factor of human beings affect on loss and gain of the country. Hence, among these citizens of the state youth are immensely play inseparable activities in the society.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To study the impact of covid-19 on youth development in South Asian Countries
- 2) To understand about the challenges faced by youth during this pandemic comparatively India and Bangladesh
- 3) To evaluate the percentage of employability and employment among youth in India and Bangladesh.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

In this study used the "Descriptive and Analysis method" for the collection of data along with interpretations. The present study is based on the collection of data from secondary sources. The role of youth during covid-19 briefly explained about their status in different social fields. The study is focus more on the issues and challenges facing by youth during this pandemic. The data helps to understand about the Youth suffered in different social aspects of the Country as well as to tackle the problems in future.

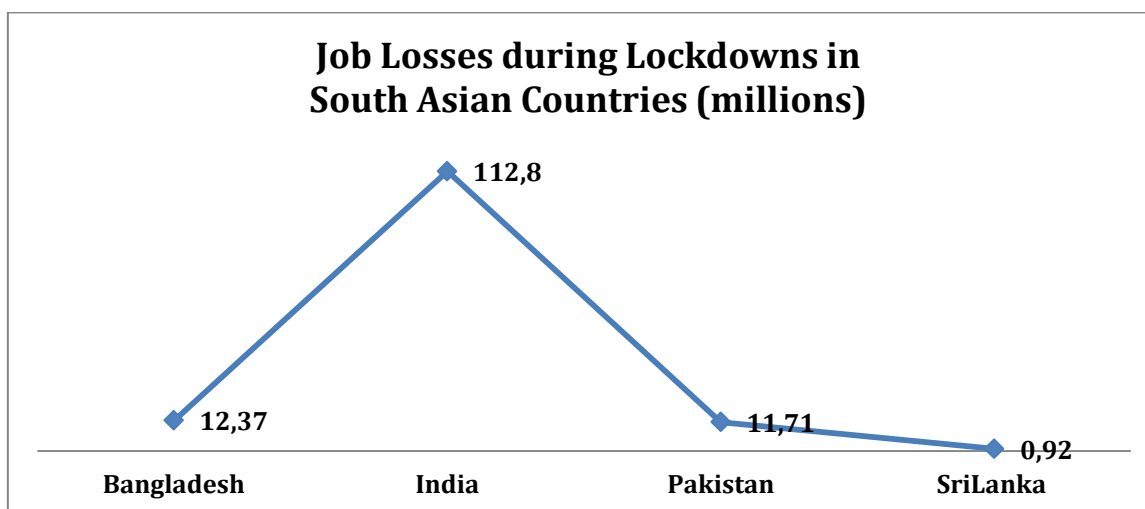
In this study the two important countries such as India and Bangladesh critically suffered lot from the covid-19. U.N says that India has 126 crores of population in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position at world population as well as Bangladesh has 164 crores of population and in the 8<sup>th</sup> position of world population. Employability and employment both are important to analyse the employment and unemployment status of the state. Disruptions to education and skills caused by covid-19 will be the other factor impact on youth employability and employment. Hence, the pandemic situation in India and its neighbors in South Asia where the U.N estimates nearly 600 million children have been affected. U.N says nearly 147 million children are unable to access online learning and only 24% households have access to the internet in India. As well as in Bangladesh nearly 40 million children are unable to access online

learning and 60% children are access online learning. The percentage of both the countries shows that to creating of employability through providing formal education in Bangladesh is better than India. Hence, the following table stated that other than educational sectors how crucially affected by covid-19.

| Sl. No | SOCIAL SECTORS       | INDIA  | BANGLADESH |
|--------|----------------------|--------|------------|
| 1      | Agriculture          | 28.8 % | 22.9 %     |
| 2      | Transport            | 5.7 %  | 7.4 %      |
| 3      | Hotels & Restaurants | 1.9 %  | 2.6 %      |
| 4      | Retail Shops         | 9.0 %  | 12.1 %     |
| 5      | Textiles             | 4.2 %  | 13.6 %     |
| 6      | Construction         | 24.6 % | 12.8 %     |

**Source:** ADB estimates using data from ILOSTAT (<http://ilostat.ilo.org>) and ABD Multiregional Input-Output Tables.

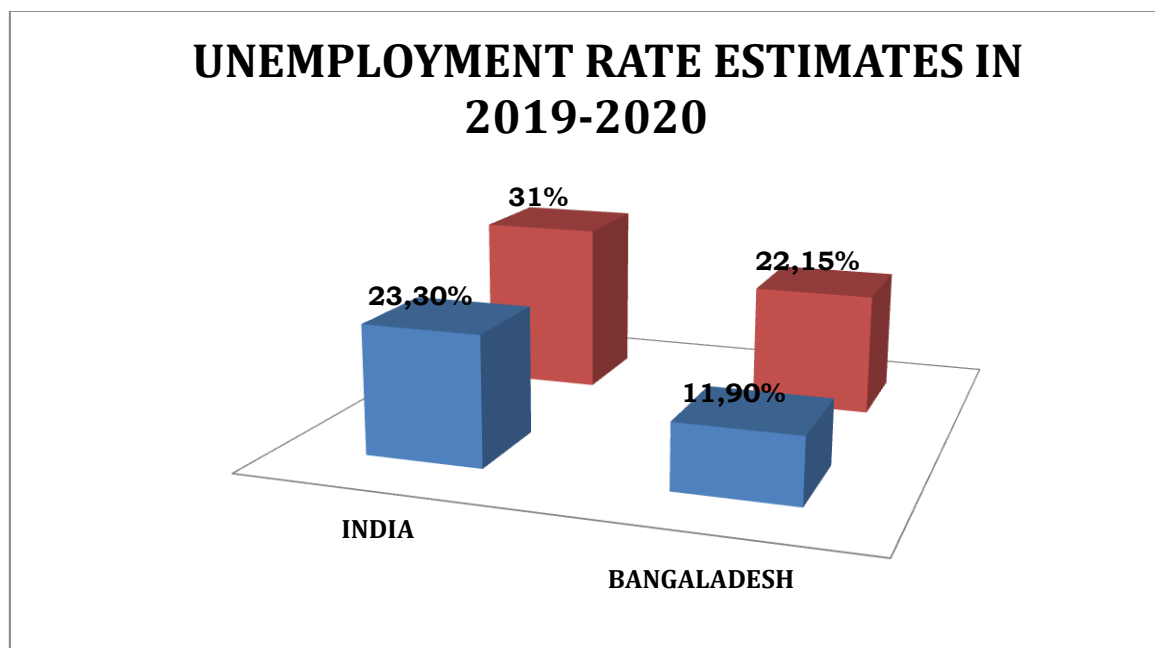
The above table stated that the civil society facing many problems and challenges during this pandemic. The mentioned above data identified the suffered of several social fields in the both countries. The many of youths were losses their jobs in different sectors comparatively between India and Bangladesh such as in the field of Agriculture 28.8 percent people were lost their job in India. Comparatively 22.9 percent people were affecting in Bangladesh. It shows that many farmers were affected in both countries in the production of food grains. In the field of transportation Bangladesh suffered more compared to India because of the lack of transportation system not adequate in Bangladesh as following the other social sectors such as hotels & restaurants, retail shops, construction and other fields. Among these major six sectors textiles and construction fields are very much threatened by the covid-19 in Bangladesh. The labourers and employees of different fields like small scale industries and the construction fields suffered because the migration of laborers from urban to rural areas due to the implement of lockdown among the both countries. Therefore, among the four important countries in South Asian countries mentioned the average percentage of job loss given in below the chart.



**Source:** UNESCAP-SANEM South Asia CGE Model Simulations, 26 May 2020.

The above charts clearly shows that the several measured has taken by the even respective governments to reduced the increasing of covid-19 cases in the state. Lock down is one among the steps taken by the government during the pandemic of covid-19. This is one of the major incident happened first in the modern age by suffering of many lives. Because, the common people especially youth's and women's who working in agriculture fields and different small scale industries were lost their jobs due to the lockdown effects. Many of the

self employee groups were also suffered due to the lack of investment so that they terminated the many employees to unable to give salaries. Among the South Asian countries India is one of the biggest countries who suffered lot in different social fields specially nearly 112 million people were lost their jobs. When compared to the other South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Srilanka, India have very high population nearly more than 126 crores. The population of India is not considered to be the fulfillment of job loss in this pandemic of covid-19. In 2019, the end of year corona cases was started in the world. During that time many of the countries was taken a several steps to control covid-19 but it was not controlled and continued to the next year during that time many people were loss their job. The below diagram shows that the estimates of total percentage of people unemployed in 2019-20.



**Source:** ADB estimates using data from ILOSTAT (<http://ilostat.ilo.org>) and ABD Multiregional Input-Output Tables

Unemployment is one of the major problems in developing countries like South Asian countries since from its Independence, India has great human resources compared to Bangladesh and other southern countries. The pandemic of covid-19 curbs many social life of human being irrespective of their religion, caste, birth place and others. When compare the estimates of unemployment between two major countries like India and Bangladesh proportionately 23.30:11.90 percent. It was major differences between the two countries suffered lot in employment sector. The year 2020 the estimates of unemployment was proportionately between the two countries is 31:22.15 percent. Only the 8% is difference between these two countries in 2020 against to the 11% unemployment problem faced in 2019.

Covid-19 is the curse on human life and destroyed the economy of all over the world. Therefore, the each country are trying to come out from this problems to save the life of human life and human activities so that The following remedies are help to brings out the countries suffering from covid-19. They are:

- 1) Effective implementation of Policies and programmes of the governments
- 2) To increase the physical and mental competence among the people
- 2) To bring civic sense among the people about this pandemic
- 3) Investment of more capital on all levels of industries

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- 4) To give more priority on transactions by fulfilling the demands of public
- 5) To execution of socio-economic dependency among the South Asian Countries
- 6) To increase the socio-economic activities at regional levels.

#### **FINDINGS:**

- ❖ India and Bangladesh has more number of youth's in across the world
- ❖ The estimated percentage of unemployment in India is more than Bangladesh
- ❖ The rural area people are much suffered comparatively the people of urban
- ❖ The agriculture sector was suffered other than the social fields of both the countries
- ❖ There are no differences in percentage of job loss during and post covid-19

#### **CONCLUSION:**

COVID-19 is the global pandemic mitigating these extra ordinary challenges would also require equally extra ordinary responses. Therefore the significant role of individual helps to promote the community development. It is very critical to examine the role of youth in the socio-political conditions at the South Asian Countries. In the post-modern era of the Nation –Building are following the parameters of Capital and Technology which are decided to maintaining the stability of youth in several social aspects. Irrespective of cast, gender, social and political abuses are disturbing the young minds, curb their personality and to create they becoming an anti-social elements. the roles of the policy makers are playing a significant role in the youth empowerment through the policies. The mobility of youth in the socio-economical conditions of South Asian countries is inevitable to the growth and development of the country. The south Asian countries promote cooperation with regional association such as SAARC, BIMSTEC and others to build back inclusive, resilient development of nations.

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