

# SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND TEMPERAMENT OF EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out to study the social attitudes and temperament of educated unemployed people. The sample for the study consisted of 225 subjects. Out of 225 subjects, 150 individuals were educated unemployed, and 75 were educated employed individuals. The Social Attitude Scale, Mathew Temperament Scale, and General Data Questionnaire were used for collecting the data. The t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used for analyzing the data. The results revealed the existence of significant differences between unemployed and employed individuals in social attitude and temperament, i.e., the employed individuals under study had more favourable social attitude than the unemployed. Those unemployed were more gregarious, less thoughtful and more maladjusted than the employed. The results also indicated the existence of significant differences among the six groups of unemployed individuals in their social attitude and temperament.

## INTRODUCTION

The most crucial problem faced by the modern society all over the world though with varying degrees of intensity is the problem of unemployment. In India, the problem of unemployment is increasing rapidly, seriously affecting the progress of the nation. It is one of the major sources of social suffering, and the lives of all individuals are directly or indirectly affected by this suffering. The unique feature of unemployment in this country is the problem of the educated unemployed. Lakhs of individuals come out from schools, colleges, universities and other institutions, but most of them do not get any job in time, or for a long period, or for ever to satisfy their bare necessities of life. As Madan (1987) observes, prolonged unemployment has serious psychological consequences upon the individual, and it leads to social disorganization.

The problem faced by the educated unemployed may be classified as falling under economic problems, social problems and psychological problems. Various measures are being considered at government levels and by other agencies to satisfy their economic and social needs. However, the psychological problems yet remain unidentified and unresolved. In India, several studies have been

conducted in the field of unemployment, but a them lay emphasis on the social and economic unemployment. Only a few studies have stressed the importance of the psychological aspects of unemployment among the educated.

The problems of the educated unemployed constitute a very serious and menacing problem. The cause for the increased unemployment among the educated classes lies in the form of education imparted under the present circumstances (Mamoria, 1960). Several researchers have shown that unemployment has a serious impact on the individual and society as a whole. During unemployment, serious changes take place in the individual (Braginsky, 1975; Jasseer & Sananda Raj, 1990), positive changes take place in the individual (Wiesel & Kaufman, 1975). These include change in personality structure, change in various behaviour practices. Prolonged unemployment leads to permanent changes of attitudes (Braginsky, 1975; Jasseer & Sananda Raj, 1990), positive changes take place in the individual (Wiesel & Kaufman, 1975). Attitudes persist for a long time even after they are changed.

Longitudinal studies have shown that unemployment has an impact on an individual's psychological well being leading to increased mortality rates

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d mental ill health (Fergusson *et. al.* 2001), suicidal ideation and attempts (Beautrais *et. al.* 1998; Kposowa, 2001), and greater need for health services (Jin *et. al.* 1996). In a study, the unemployed reported more stress, boredom and uncertainty, and less satisfaction with themselves, their lives, educational level, family functioning, income and health than the employed (Gein, 2000).

According to Blum (1956), the unemployed are emotionally more unstable than the employed. This viewpoint was clarified by Braginsky and Braginsky (1975), Andrew & Rachel (1984) and David (1988) through their investigations. Analysis of the results of various investigations showed that alienation (Andrew & Michael, 1982; Peter, 1987; David, 1988; Linda, 1988;), depression (Braginsky & Braginsky, 1975; Michael and Gisela, 1977; Linda, 1988; Montgomery, 1999) and anxiety (Andrew & Michael, 1982; Michael & Philip, 1985; David, 1988; Montgomery, 1999) are common in unemployed people. For highly educated unemployed, the inability to find a job commensurate to one's professional qualifications can become stressful for most individuals (McGoldrick & Cooper, 1990; Ser & Hou, 2001). The unemployed have low self-esteem (Braginsky & Braginsky, 1975; Andrew & Michael, 1982; Neffield *et. al.* 1992), financial insecurity (Lennart *et. al.* 1994), reduced hope (Michael & Gisela, 1977) and shame (David, 1988) and this state will lead to personal deterioration. The role of paid worker is a source of self-esteem (Mary & Good, 2005), self identify and social regards (Azar & Vasudev, 2005).

Thus it becomes clear that employment plays a fundamental social role in the society. The lack of it is felt as a serious deprivation. At best, a person without a job is merely, second class citizen; at worst, he or she is a hopeless person who may readily vent a sense of alienation and frustration, and be led to antisocial activities, perhaps to crime.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

The major hypothesis formulated for the study is given below.

The educated unemployed will differ significantly from the educated employed in social attitudes and temperament.

## **SAMPLE**

The sample for the present study consists of 225 subjects, of whom 150 are educated unemployed and 75 are educated employed. The subjects include both males and females having different educational qualifications and of different age levels. Some of the subjects are married, while others are unmarried. The subjects belong to different religions, they are Hindus, Christians and Muslims. The subjects are selected from both rural and urban regions of Kerala.

## **TOOLS**

Three tools were used for collecting the data for the present study. They are, (1) Social Attitudes Scale, (2) Mathew Temperament Scale, and (3) General Data Questionnaire. The Social Attitudes Scale measures six different attitudes of the individuals viz., attitude towards society, attitude towards vocation, attitude towards religion, attitude towards acquaintances, attitude towards government, and attitude towards politics. For collecting the personal details like age, sex, religion, etc. of the subjects, the General Data Questionnaire was used.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Data Collection**

The researcher personally met each subject for collecting the data. Subjects were first asked to fill up the General Data Questionnaire seeking information on age, sex, religion, employment status, duration of employment / unemployment, etc. Then they were given the Social Attitudes Scale and requested to read each item and mark their agreement or disagreement with each item. As they completed their responses, they were then given the Mathew Temperament Scale to assess their gregariousness, thoughtfulness and maladjustment. After they completed their responses the data sheets were collected and they were thanked for their participation.

## **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES**

For analyzing the data, statistical techniques like t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The data obtained in this study were statistically analyzed, and the results are discussed below in two sections.

## SECTION I : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF t-TESTS

The unemployed individuals were compared with the employed individuals on the nine variables under study using t-test. The number of subjects in the unemployed group was 150 and that in the employed group was 75. Table 1 shows the mean, standard deviation and N in respect of the nine variables of the unemployed and employed subjects and the corresponding t-values. Each of these are discussed below under two heads.

### a) Social Attitude Variables

In the case of social attitude variables, attitude towards society ( $t=4.73$ , significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards vocation ( $t=2.60$ , significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards religion ( $t=3.52$ , significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards acquaintances ( $t=4.05$ , significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards government ( $t=3.29$ , significant at 0.01 level), and attitude towards politics ( $t=3.47$ , significant at 0.01 level) showed significant difference between the unemployed and the employed subjects as can be seen in Table 1.

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TABLE 1  
MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION, AND 't'-VALUES OF UNEMPLOYED (UE) AND EMPLOYED (E) SUBJECTS ON THE NINE VARIABLES

Sl. No.	Variable	U/E Group N=150		E Group N=75		t-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1.	Attitude towards Society	22.35	5.54	26.85	3.58	4.73*
2.	Attitude towards Vocation	27.50	5.46	29.79	7.42	2.60*
3.	Attitude towards Religion	35.00	5.30	37.83	6.26	3.52*
4.	Attitude towards Acquaintances	38.22	5.30	41.24	5.13	4.05*
5.	Attitude towards Government	28.77	6.67	32.13	8.14	3.29*
6.	Attitude towards Politics	27.05	5.90	30.36	8.07	3.47*
7.	Gregariousness	17.61	5.30	15.79	5.81	2.28**
8.	Thoughtfulness	21.79	5.06	23.49	4.81	2.41**
9.	Maladjustment	17.45	3.76	7.69	3.40	18.87*

Note : \* indicates significance at 0.01 level

\*\* indicates significance at 0.05 level

The data and results indicate that the unemployed differ significantly (at 0.01 level) from the employed in their

attitude towards society. The greater mean by the employed group ( $E=26.85$ ,  $UE=22.35$ ) indicates that the employed subjects have a more favourable attitude towards society. The less favourable attitude of the unemployed may be due to reasons such as inadequacy and hatred, etc., because the unemployed have to provide adequate job opportunities for themselves to meet the bare necessities of life. The greater mean value obtained by the employed ( $E=29.79$ ,  $UE=27.50$ ) for attitude towards vocation, is a clear indication of a more favourable attitude of the employed towards vocation. In the case of the unemployed, they had been unemployed for a long time for getting a job, but they had failed to get the job they desired. As a result, the unemployed individuals have been frustrated, and it might have led to an unfavourable attitude towards vocation.

The results shown in Table 1 emphasize a significant difference (at 0.01 level) between the unemployed and employed groups in their attitudes towards society. The higher mean value obtained by the employed group ( $E=37.83$ ,  $UE=35.00$ ) indicates that the employed subjects have a more favourable attitude towards religion. The unemployed individuals think that their religion and faith in God had not helped them to get a job, while the unemployed might think that their long term belief in God did not help them. So, the unemployed individuals have developed a positive attitude towards religion, while the unemployed ones have developed an unfavourable attitude towards it.

The result of the t-test reveals that there is a significant difference (at 0.01 level) between the unemployed and employed subjects in their attitudes towards acquaintances, in favour of the employed. This indicates that the higher the employment of the individuals, the higher will be the score for attitude towards acquaintances. In the case of the unemployed, the lack of employment opportunities have led to an unfavourable attitude towards acquaintances. In short, the unemployed individuals are considered as showing a favourable attitude towards acquaintances.

It may be noted from the results that there is a significant difference (at 0.01 level) between the unemployed and employed in their attitudes towards government. The mean value obtained for

jects (E = 32.3, UE = 28.77) is greater than that for the employed ones for this variable. This indicates that the employed had a more favourable attitude towards government. This may be due to their belief in the activities of the government. The unemployed showed a negative attitude towards the government, because they may think that the government is the main obstacle in their getting a job.

The results reveal some the significant difference (at 0.01 level) between unemployed and employed individuals in their attitude towards politics. The greater mean value obtained by the employed (E = 30.36, UE = 27.05) is a clear indication of their favourable attitude towards politics. In fact, every employed person is forced to become a member of any political organization, and hence, they may develop a favourable attitude towards politics and politicians. Naturally, the unemployed are against trade unions, and their preference in appointments. According to them, political leaders are the catalysts of corruption and play a factor in making 'backdoor placements'. All these factors only promote their negative attitude towards politics and politicians.

#### Temperament Variables

The temperamental variables have significant differences between the unemployed and the employed subjects. The significant level is 0.05 for gregariousness, 0.05 for thoughtfulness, and 0.01 for maladjustment. The comparison of the mean scores of the two groups (UE = 15.61, E = 15.79) for gregariousness shows that the unemployed can be distinguished from the employed on the basis of gregariousness. The results indicate that the unemployed are more interested in social and cultural activities than the employed. In the case of thoughtfulness, the mean score obtained by the employed is greater than that of the unemployed (E = 23.49, UE = 21.79), which indicates that the employed are more thoughtful than the unemployed. In maladjustment, a comparison of the mean scores of both groups (UE = 17.45, E = 7.69) indicates that the unemployed are more maladjusted than the employed, the unemployed are more moody, depressed, worried, nervous, emotional and despaired than the employed. They have psychosomatic complaints, feelings of tiredness and fatigue, guilt feelings, etc.

## SECTION II : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF ANOVA

In the present study, comparison of differences among the means of various unemployed groups is done using ANOVA. Here, the total sample was split into six unemployed groups based on the duration of their unemployment. The mean scores of these groups have been tested for significance on the basis of each of the nine variables under study.

### a) Social Attitude Variables

Among the social attitude variables, attitude towards society (F = 4.69, significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards religion (F = 5.44, significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards acquaintances (F = 4.09, significant at 0.01 level), attitude towards government (F = 3.06, significant at 0.05 level) have significant difference among the six groups, whereas in the case of attitude towards vocation (F = 1.92), there is no significant difference among the six groups, as can be seen in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**  
**RESULTS OF ANOVA OF THE SIX UNEMPLOYED GROUPS ON THE NINE VARIABLES**

Sl. No.	Variable	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square (Variance)		F-value
			Between Groups	Within Group	
1.	Attitude towards Society	5.219	215.55	45.93	4.69*
2.	Attitude towards Vocation	5.219	74.72	38.82	1.92
3.	Attitude towards Religion	5.219	166.79	30.67	5.44*
4.	Attitude towards Acquaintances	5.219	113.48	27.77	4.09*
5.	Attitude towards Government	5.219	160.30	32.12	3.07**
6.	Attitude towards Politics	5.219	139.27	45.49	3.06**
7.	Gregariousness	5.219	84.18	31.16	2.70**
8.	Thoughtfulness	5.219	87.20	24.15	3.61*
9.	Maladjustment	5.219	963.81	13.37	72.11*

Note : \* indicates significance at 0.01 level

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