

Thoughts about Bhagavad Geeta Lines about Unemployment
----(ILO, Jaathiratnaalu Movie, Urbanisation, Demand & Supply ---

- Dr Vamshi Krishna Ghanapathi, Mysore

These days, we have many reports about unemployment, which raise eye brows:

- 1) Half the alumni of IIT Mumbai did not find placement, which means prospective employers did not find them employable.
- 2) New IITs and IIMs have similar stories to report from Jammu to Palakkad (Kerala), with placement records hovering around 50 - 60%.
- 3) Engineering Colleges, Arts & Science Colleges have been churning similar stories for many decades, especially in the past 3 - 4 decades.
- 4) Internal Labour Organisation (ILO) says that high-school and college graduates between the age of 15 - 29 are the most unemployed in the country today.

This brings us to the system of Market Dynamics called Demand & Supply (for both Goods and Services).

The intersection of the supply and demand curves marks the equilibrium, or market-clearing price.

The equilibrium price is the price at which demand matches supply, producing a market equilibrium acceptable to Consumers/ Employers and Sellers/ Suppliers.

(The theory of supply and demand was popularized by Adam Smith in 1776 and is effective in predicting market behavior.)

In the current scenario, we can easily understand the skew between demand and supply resulting in the large scale unemployment even in (supposedly) top notch colleges. (It is a point of debate, whether they are really top-notch as many admissions are based on compassionate grounds and better of the current applicants).

A simple survey on the unemployed graduates would give us the picture about the Credentials of the person including Intelligent Quotient, Presentation Ability, Adoptability, Language Skills.

You can join any person to any course by discretion, but can't make them employable until the core of his/ her personality is transformed.

Apart from quality, More Important Issue for this scenario is mismatch of the DEMAND and SUPPLY.

Spotting the success of one or two professions, everyone opts for IT jobs. We hardly see enthusiasm for basic engineering skills such as CIVIL, Mechanical, Electrical etc.

Dignity for hard work and labour is missing in many parts of our countries, whereas everyone prefers the easy job, which is high paying too.

Therefore, we have terrible shortage in the arena of Agriculture, Construction, Cooking, Temple Worship, Manufacturing Industries ...

The unemployed people would prefer to remain without job, rather than transforming themselves to suit the jobs in the available/ critical sectors of the nation.

Here, we should Remember the Lines of Bhagavad Geeta and the role of Family Occupation (Kula Vrutti), which had the sway in the society for millennia, taking care of the requirements of the society effectively.

1) Dignity of Labour was the key.

2) An entire episode is dedicated to such professions in Rudra Adhyaya (Yajurveda). (Carpenters, Potters, Car-makers, Iron-Smiths, Gold Smiths, Fishermen, Weapon-makers etc.) All these professionals were treated as an aspect of the God, bestowing the respect apart from livelihood.

Lack of Respect towards the profession from the society and Lack of Self-Respect among the workers, makes themselves less-preferred for marriage alliance among other important events of life.

URBAN LIFE

To mitigate this problem, people start to migrate towards larger place, causing mismatch of demand and supply of Living Space. Rural Area provides Expansive Space, whereas Urban area squeezes. Thus, villagers who had large living spaces drop into the pigeon holes of the cities.

Thus, we have millions of Slum-dwellers in the cities, which include both farmers, traditional professionals and (farm) labourers vying for the same unskilled jobs of the towns. (Unremunerative farm practices is another conundrum, which needs special attention to maintain the balance.)

A Telugu Movie - Jaatiratnaalu jovially but rightly pointed towards this syndrome.

Finally, the philosophy of Bhagavad Geeta could provide the solution, to foster the equilibrium of this Demand and Supply.

श्रेयान् स्वधर्मो विगुणः परधर्मात् स्वनुष्ठितात्।

स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः॥

Own DUTY (Profession) is always better. (Practice makes you perfect). Even if you are imperfect in your current vocation, it is better than to imitating other professions.

Better to spend the life time in your Duties. Adopting other's duty is frightful, due to the cart-wheeling prospects to the balance in the society. Namah Namah...