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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REPORT
OF THE
UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

1926-27

Evidence

VOLUME III



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THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

I. EXISTENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Is it your opinion that unemployment exists among the middle classes? If so, is it prevalent amongst—

(1) *Literary classes*, and amongst them in (a) Graduates, (b) S.S.L.C.'s and Intermediates and (c) unqualified persons;

(2) *the Technical and Professional classes*, such as (a) Teachers, (b) Profession of Law, (c) Profession of Medicine, (d) Profession of Engineering, (e) Profession of Agriculture, (f) Handicrafts, such as weaving, etc., (g) Railways in—

(i) qualified persons,

(ii) unqualified persons;

(3) the Mercantile (including Insurance and Accountancy, etc.) and Banking businesses, and if so, amongst trained or untrained persons?

(4) Is there unemployment amongst Indians educated in foreign countries who have returned to this country? If so, state its extent and the cause.

II. CAUSES.

What is your opinion as to the causes of this unemployment? Is it due—

(1) to the present system of education, and if so, in what respect is the system defective;

(2) to the small remuneration offered in such employments;

(3) to want of fluidity, that is to say, is there any cause which prevents an applicant in one part of the Presidency from taking up an appointment in another part which is not adjacent to his native place;

(4) to social causes; if so, how do they operate;

(5) to want of organisation, such as absence of Information and absence of Employment Bureaux and failure on the part of educational institutions to keep in touch with the employment market?

(6) What is the relative cost of education in (a) Literary, (b) Professional and (c) Commercial courses of question I mentioned above, and has the difference in cost any appreciable effect on the supply of applicants for these avocations?

III. SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

In order to ascertain the normal number of situations and vacancies, can you give figures under any of the following heads:—

(1) *Government Servants*.—(a) What is the normal supply of Graduates, Intermediates, S.S.L.C.'s and unqualified candidates produced from educational institutions during the past five or ten years?

(b) What percentage under each head obtained permanent employment?

(c) What is the number of Government posts available during the same period, or for such shorter period as figures may be obtainable?

(d) What is the average pay of such posts?

(2) *Technical and Professional*.—(a) What is the number of qualified candidates produced during the past five or ten years or for such shorter period as figures may be obtainable?

(b) What is the number of appointments available during the same period?

(3) *Mercantile and Banking*.—(a) What is the number of qualified applicants available during the past five or ten years?

(b) What is the normal number of appointments?

IV. REMEDIES.

The following remedies have been suggested. Have you any remarks to make on them or any other suggestions to offer?—

- (1) Vocational training and selection in schools.
- (2) Technical education.
- (3) Employment or Information Bureaux in colleges and Government offices, or Private Employment Agencies.
- (4) Diversion of middle classes to—
 - (a) agriculture,
 - (b) mechanical occupations,
 - (c) trade and commerce.
- (5) Provision of more capital for agricultural development and the best method of securing this.
- (6) Village reconstruction as a means of employment.
- (7) Co-operative agriculture.
- (8) Farm colonies for middle classes.
- (9) Development of banking in connection with extension of agriculture.
- (10) Industrial Bank for promoting home industries and handicrafts especially.
- (11) Co-operative production and distribution.
- (12) Emigration—
 - (a) within British India,
 - (b) outside India.