

# UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG DEGREE AND DIPLOMA HOLDERS IN ENGINEERING

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## *Introduction*

It looks paradoxical that a situation of shortage of engineers till mid-sixties emerged into that of surplus in the late sixties. This surplus of engineering degree and diploma holders assumed such a big diploma holders in engineering, there is great relevance of this in- and administrators for the past few years. Despite this seriousness, it is lamentable to note the paucity of authentic data about the nature and extent of the problem.

Considering the per student cost involved in training degree and diploma holders in engineering, there is great relevance of this information. Though unemployment is in vogue to a large extent in other strategic manpower categories, yet considering the small out-turn of engineers as compared to the total student population, the problem assumes great significance.

In this article, an attempt has been made to review the situation of shortage or surplus among engineering degree and diploma holders since the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan and to find out a reliable estimate about the magnitude of the problem in the country both statewise and specialitywise. The data from the two main sources, viz., the Census and the DGE&T, further supplemented by the *ad hoc* estimates of unemployment by the CSIR, IAMR, etc., form the basis of discussion here. With all its limitations the Live Register data of Employment Exchanges are the only time-series data on unemployment. By applying suitable correction factors, they provide a more reliable estimate of unemployment.

## *Engineering Manpower during the Five-Year Plans*

As early as in 1949, the Scientific Manpower Committee for the first time attempted to assess the requirement for technical personnel over a given period. The Committee observed that the available resources of manpower are inadequate to match the requirements and recommended a number of schemes like development and utilisation

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